

TCC head said named as adviser

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Post and Communication Hashem Dabbas has appointed Telecommunications Corporation (TCC) Director General Ahmad Nawawi as his adviser and designated the corporation's inspector general, Walid Dweik, as acting TCC director general in addition to his normal duties, according to a report in the Arabic daily Al Ra'i. Informed sources told the Jordan Times last week that Mr. Nawawi had received an earlier decision to resign his post and decided to retain his job at the head of the corporation. Reports said that Mr. Nawawi had presented his resignation over two weeks ago and that it was accepted by the cabinet. His resignation came two days after a controversial interview, during which he announced the cancellation of a contract that gave a local company a 15-year monopoly for radio-paging services. In the interview, which was published in Al Ra'i, Mr. Nawawi defended his decision to award a contract for cellular phone services to a local group that would introduce the service in cooperation with the U.S. company Motorola.

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Talal Al Hassan leads for U.N.

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Al Hassan left for New York Sunday to head the Jordanian delegation to the 49th session of the United Nations General Assembly which begins on Sept. 20. Mr. Hassan would stop in Brussels, for talks with the European Union (EU) Commissioner General and senior officials from the EU Commission on bilateral relations. Mr. Hassan said while in New York he will hold contacts with senior U.N. officials and Arab and foreign ministers to brief them on the latest developments in the region, particularly the developments on the Jordanian-Israeli track, and to discuss bilateral relations.

Minister meets new Lebanese envoy

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Talal Al Hassan on Sunday received a copy of the credentials of the newly-appointed Lebanese ambassador to Jordan, William Farid Habib. Mr. Habib replaces Ahmad Ibrahim, who has been named Lebanon's ambassador to Poland.

Swedish coalition defeated in polls

STOCKHOLM (R) — Sweden's centre-right coalition government was defeated in a general election on Sunday as the country swung to the left, according to an official forecast. With 121 of 711 electoral districts counted, the opposition Social Democratic Party (SDP) was within just seven seats of winning an overall majority in parliament. The early returns indicated Ingvar Carlsson's SDP would have the choice of forming a coalition government with the small Liberal Party or with the left-wing Green parties. The ex-communist Left Party won 23 seats, up by seven from the last election in 1991 while the Green Party made a triumphant return to parliament with 21 seats after failing to win any in 1991. The returns showed two rightist parties, the Christian Democrats and the far-right New Democracy Party, failing to win any seats at all, while support for Prime Minister Carl Bildt's Moderate Party remained stable.

Algeria denies links to Morocco violence

LONDON (R) — Algeria has denied accusations by Morocco that its security services trained gunmen who attacked a hotel in Marrakech in order to destabilise the kingdom. "Algeria categorically refutes these baseless allegations which have recently been nourished by the infertile imagination of the Moroccan Interior Ministry," the Foreign Ministry said in a statement broadcast by official Algerian radio on Saturday.

Israel expects Ross on Tuesday

TEL AVIV (AFP) — The U.S. Middle East peace talks coordinator, Dennis Ross, will arrive in Israel on Tuesday evening to prepare for Secretary of State Warren Christopher's visit in October, the foreign ministry announced. Mr. Ross will fly from Damascus to Israel, where he will hold talks on Wednesday and Thursday before returning to Washington, the ministry said in a communiqué. Mr. Christopher was expected to begin his next Middle East shuttle early next month.

PNA puts out tenders for Gaza airport

GAZA CITY (AFP) — The Palestinian National Authority (PNA) put out tenders Sunday for the planning and first phase of construction of an airport on the Gaza Strip. The authority's transport and communications ministry urged interested parties to send bids by Oct. 15.

Fate of Haiti in balance as Carter presses effort

PORT-AU-PRINCE (Agencies) — The possibility of an American-led invasion of Haiti hung in the balance Sunday as former U.S. President Jimmy Carter pressed his talks and went in to new discussions with the Haitian junta and their interim president.

Mr. Carter and his delegation ended six hours of talks at army headquarters with leaders of the 1991 coup shortly before 5 p.m. (2100 GMT).

They then all went to the nearby presidential palace for discussions with President Emile Jonassaint, head of the military-installed government that Washington has branded as illegal.

The U.S. team, including retired top General Colin Powell and Senator Sam Nunn, has had four rounds of discussions with the junta totalling 13½ hours since it arrived here Saturday but there was no word on progress.

In Washington, Vice President Al Gore said in a live television interview that he was neither "optimistic nor pessimistic" on chances for



Jimmy Carter

an accord to avoid an invasion by 20,000 troops.

He cautioned against putting too much meaning into the meeting with Mr. Jonassaint and said, "this can go either way."

President Bill Clinton and his top security aides were at the White House awaiting word from Mr. Carter, who would likely phone from the plane taking the delegation home. They were due to have left hours earlier at midday.

Mr. Carter and

Lieutenant-General Raoul Cedras left military headquarters and drove together the 250 metres to the national palace, rousing speculation that Mr. Jonassaint's views were being sought on a possible deal.

Gen. Powell and Sen. Nunn, also went to the national palace.

CBS television's Dan Rather, in Port-Au-Prince, reported that there was an outline agreement providing for the generals to step down that Mr. Carter would put to President Clinton for his approval.

Mr. Carter, U.S. president until 1981, had been briefed by Mr. Clinton only to discuss the ways the junta could leave power, allowing a peaceful restoration of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

Haitian military Chief of Staff Brigadier General Philippe Biamby had also been at the meeting with Mr. Carter but not the third junta member, Port-Au-Prince police chief Colonel Michel Francois.

Vice-President Gore told CNN television in Washing-

ton that the talks would probably end Sunday, but he refused to be drawn on how they were going.

Gen. Cedras was seen by reporters a few minutes before 5 p.m. (2200 GMT) to leave the meeting room and walk along a balcony to another office.

He had earlier briefly left the meeting and gone across the street to the national palace, raising speculation that he was consulting Mr. Jonassaint, whose agreement would presumably be needed for any deal.

Mr. Gore said the talks between Haiti's military strongmen and the U.S. delegation were at a "delicate stage" and cautioned against characterising the discussions as pessimistic or optimistic.

"I would not want anyone to think it was definitely going one way or the other now. It could go either way... the only thing for sure is that democracy will be restored to Haiti," he said.

Mr. Gore described the discussions as focusing only on "the modalities of departure."

GCC ministers welcome Washington Declaration

RIYADH (Agencies) — Foreign ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) have welcomed the Washington Declaration of Jordan and Israel.

The GCC foreign ministers ended a regular meeting in the Saudi capital Riyadh after restating demands that Iraq recognise Kuwait's sovereignty.

"The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) condemns Iraq's attempt to dissolve the binding international obligations (imposed on it)," said a statement issued after the end of the meeting late on Saturday and carried by the official Saudi Press Agency.

The statement said Iraq should recognise Kuwait's sovereignty and U.N.-demarcated borders and return prisoners whom Kuwait says have been held by Baghdad since its occupation of the emirate in 1990-91.

The GCC states are Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman, Bahrain, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates (UAE). The GCC statement also welcomed last month's preliminary agreement between Jordan and Israel signed on July 25 in Washington.

"The council welcomes the progress made on the Jordanian-Israeli track," it

said, calling for world pressure on Israel not to block the exercise of Palestinian autonomy and "not to change the situation in Jerusalem prior to 1967."

The GCC urged Iran to accept international arbitration in its dispute with the UAE over three small islands in the Gulf.

"As Iran has not shown any serious desire to discuss ending its occupation of the Lesser and Greater Tunbs and Abu Musa, the council invites Iran to accept a referral of this dispute to the international Court of Justice," it said.

The ministers also hailed the progress made on the Palestinian track of the Middle East peace process.

They urged the United States and Russia, co-sponsors of the process, to put pressure on Israel to "remove" the obstacles it is placing in the path of the Palestinian Authority.

But they also expressed "deep concern" at the lack of progress on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks, blaming Israel for "rejecting the principles" agreed on at the October 1991 Middle East conference in Madrid which launched the peace process.

Yemen criticises S. Arabia for urging talks with exiles

SANAA (Agencies) — Yemen accused Saudi Arabia Sunday of meddling in its internal affairs after the kingdom's foreign minister urged Sanaa to open a dialogue with secessionists who were vanquished in Yemen's recent civil war.

"We had expected Prince Saud Al Faisal to announce normalisation of relations between the Republic of Yemen and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in response to the Yemeni government's request for extinguishing the fire of sedition that the treacherous separatists set ablaze," an official statement said.

It contained a veiled charge that Saudi Arabia had backed southern Yemeni leaders during the two-month civil war that ended after government forces conquered southern strongholds July 7.

Sanaa had hoped to "open a new page" in relations with Saudi Arabia, "even though everyone knows the identity of the party that financed that sedition" in which Yemeni lives were lost and Yemen's economic infrastructure was destroyed," said the statement, carried by the official news agency SABA. Prince Saud made his call

for an inter-Yemen dialogue in a speech Saturday at the opening session of a Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) conference in Riyadh.

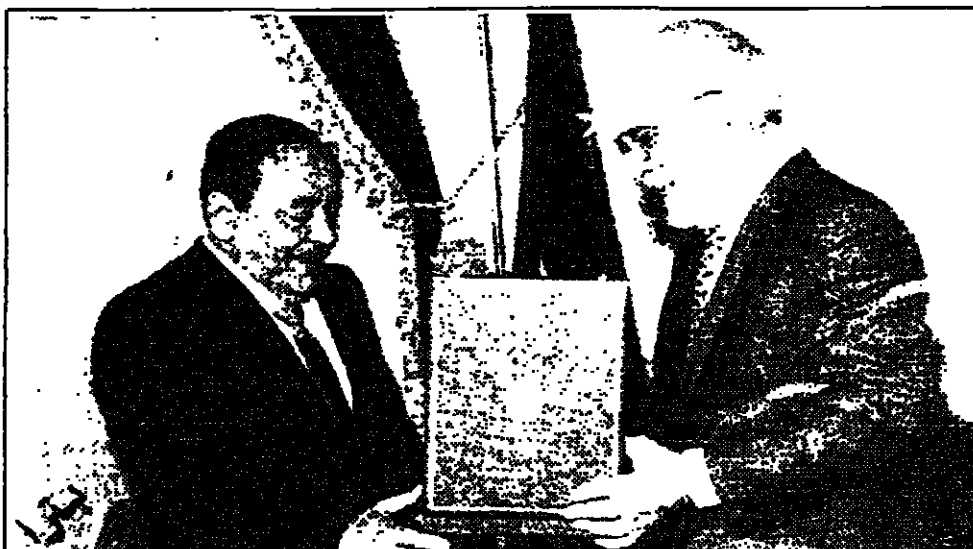
The two-day meeting was attended by the foreign ministers of the six GCC member states — Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates and Oman.

The GCC was perceived as sympathetic to the south, with the exception of Qatar which backed the northern government.

"Dialogue between the Yemenis is an internal affair of Yemen," the Yemeni statement said Sunday.

Southern Yemenis declared secession from the north in the early days of the Yemeni war. Southern leaders fled into exile after the end of the war, but President Ali Abdullah Saleh still insists on trying 16 of them for treason and war crimes.

Saudi Arabia and some other Gulf states showed sympathy for the South during the conflict, although speculation of material backing was never confirmed. Since the end of the war, Saudi Arabia has repatriated nearly 600 southern soldiers and officers who had fled to the kingdom.



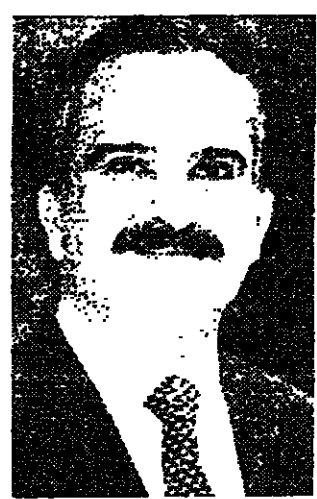
YEMENI ENVOY HONOURED: AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein on Sunday conferred Jordan's Independence Medal of the First Order on Yemeni Ambassador to Jordan Ali Abu Lahoum on the occasion of the end of his tour of duty in Jordan. Lower House of Parliament Speaker Taher Masri received Mr. Abu Lahoum, who is also dean of the diplomatic corps in Jordan, and thanked him for his efforts to strengthen Jordanian-Yemeni relations (Petra photo)

Cabinet approves statute for Higher Authority for Purchases

AMMAN (Petra) — The Council of Ministers has endorsed a statute for the Higher Authority for Purchases referred to it by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, chairman of the Royal Commission for Reform and Modernisation.

A government statement said that the statute was based on His Majesty King Hussein's directives to Prince Hassan last month, asking that the economic and investment climate in Jordan be based on sound and clear ground to enable the Kingdom to enter a new era with solid steps and to safeguard its reputation and credibility at a time when the country is about to expand its links with world economic blocs.

The statement said economic and trade links with other states and blocs normally entail certain activities that require control and should therefore be governed by rules of conduct and values to fend off any suspicious or corrupt acts or cause any imbalance or neglect and prevent any profiteering or misconduct or misuse of office. To avoid such situations, there is need for consolidating rules of conduct and sub-



jecting all actions to be accountable before the law, the statement added.

In order to achieve these criteria in conduct and to ensure the soundness of procedures connected with the public procurements and purchases, especially in international trade transactions, and in view of the diversity of legislations governing requirements for the various government offices, the overlapping of certain legislations and the failure of some of them to serve their purpose and meet the requirements of the modern age and handle

the rapid developments at the local and international fronts, it was found necessary to establish a general umbrella for purchases, it said.

It said that the Higher Authority for Purchases is deemed to be of urgent necessity to contribute to the development of those departments in charge of requirements, purchases and services for the state.

This authority, this statement said, would also control the performance of government offices and the conduct of their staff to ensure that they abide by the regulations and rules, would define defects, avoid any imbalances and prevent abuse of authority and improve and simplify procedures, taking care to ensure speed, fair dealings and less routine and bureaucracy.

The statement said that the council would ensure that sound procedures would be followed by all parties in any commercial transaction concerning purchases in such a manner that would prevent any illegal benefits from reaching any party and would lay down controls to safeguard public funds and guarantee public justice.

PLO says it got only 10% of pledged funds

CAIRO (Agencies) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) efforts to rebuild the new self-rule areas are hampered by Israel's slowness to hand over authority and the receipt of less than 10 per cent of promised foreign funds, a PLO official said here Sunday.

The Palestinians have received about \$65 million of the \$720 million promised for this year, said Mr. Farouk Kaddoumi, deputy chairman of the Palestinian Economic Council for Development and Reconstruction (PECDAR).

"The process is slow. Instead of months, it should take weeks or less," Mr. Kaddoumi told reporters during a PECDAR session which was partly to discuss preparations for an upcoming meeting of international donors.

"We try to expedite the process," although donors "have their own plans," Mr. Kaddoumi said.

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's economic advisor Said Hamud said earlier that PECDAR would set a timetable for development projects to be presented to donor countries.

Mr. Kaddoumi also accused Israel of "moving to the detriment of plans," adding "we have not yet received full empowerment in both Gaza and the West Bank."

Autonomy was launched in the Gaza Strip and Jericho in May, but there had been "delays in the withdrawal of Israeli forces," said Mr. Kaddoumi, who is also the head

of the PLO's political department.

And in the rest of the West Bank, only authority in education has been transferred to the PLO, he complained.

In Israel, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said meanwhile elections in the self-rule areas had been delayed because the PLO was seeking to use them to win "signs of sovereignty," an Israeli official said.

Elections to an autonomous council were scheduled for July 13, then postponed until Oct. 15 following delays in launching autonomy, and are now planned for Dec. 5.

PECDAR began meeting here on Saturday at a session chaired by Mr. Arafat and continued discussions Sunday without him, PECDAR official Hassan Abu Libdeh said.

Mr. Arafat was meeting Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in the port city of Alexandria.

The officials discussed projects to set up a development bank and Palestinian monetary authority Saturday.

Mr. Abu Libdeh said the body aimed to "smooth up operations," deal with administrative and planning matters and discuss "some ideas for the future."

Mr. Kaddoumi denied there was any rift within the PLO's economic team even though he was chairing the meeting in the absence of PECDAR executive chief Ahmad Qureira.

(Continued on page 2)

Policeman killed in Gaza row

GAZA (Agencies) — About 4,000 Palestinian mourners attended the Gaza Strip funeral of a policeman killed trying to break up a row between secret police and armed members of the Islamic Hamas movement, witnesses said.

A 23-year-old Palestinian plunged a large knife into the neck of an Israeli soldier at a bus stop in the Tel Aviv suburb of Petah Tikva, police said.

The soldier was taken to hospital with "moderate" injuries while the aggressor was arrested.

Police sealed off the area, hunting for possible accomplices of the Palestinian, whose name was not released.

Israeli soldiers meanwhile shot dead a Palestinian and wounded another on Sunday at a roadblock in the occupied West Bank, security sources said.

The soldiers opened fire when the Palestinians van drove through the checkpoint near Ramallah without stopping, the sources said.

At the Gaza funeral, some held placards calling for action against the killers of Captain Yusri Al Hams, the first policeman killed in clashes with Palestinians since self-rule began in May.

The Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas, insisting it did not kill Hams, put out two statements within a few hours demanding the self-

(Continued on page 2)

THEATRE WORKSHOP: Her Majesty Queen Noor Sunday attends one of a series of workshops held by a British theatre company, the Right Size, with a team of Jordanian theatre professionals and students. Upon the request of Jordanian actors, the British Council, in cooperation with the Theatre-in-Education programme of the Noor Al Hussein Foundation, invited two members of the Right Size group to Jordan for a second visit, to work with selected Jordanian actors on improvised story-telling using self-creation, mime, movement, Italian mask, music, and other physical comedy techniques, while stressing discipline and group work. The project will concentrate on using the workshop



techniques to develop performances, which will be held at the Royal Cultural Centre on Sept. 20 and 21. Queen Noor met the actors and dis-

cussed how they could use the new techniques in their professional life, in both teaching and acting. She expressed her hope

that they share their knowledge with their colleagues so that the workshop would have a broader impact (Photo by George Crystal)

Media production company to lease facilities in financial rescue bid — general manager

By Cathy King
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Jordan Company for Television, Radio and Cinema Production plans to lease its studios and equipment in a move to rescue itself from financial problems in two to three years, according to its general manager, Jawada Maraheh.

Since the establishment of the shareholding company in 1983, of which the government and government-guided agencies own 52 per cent, it has accumulated debts of JD18 million. The lease, expected to be awarded to Sheikh Saleh Kamal in partnership with the Gulf Artistic Production Company (GAP), Dubai, will ease the burden of these debts, Mr. Maraheh said.

The deadline for submission of bids is today, as announced in an invitation printed in the local press last week.

Businessmen interested in the lease have complained the time was too short for serious competitors to bid. They suggest that a deal between the company and the Sheikh Saleh-GAP partnership had been agreed prior to the official announcement.

Mr. Maraheh refuted the insinuation. Interested parties could make an offer at any time, but extensive knowledge and experience

in the field are prerequisites to acceptance, he said.

In recent interviews, Mr. Maraheh and Dr. Fahed Faneh, head of an appointed management committee, said Sheikh Saleh-GAP were the only contenders.

Sheikh Saleh, a Saudi national who owns the Italian-based Arab Radio and Television Company, is one of the individual shareholders and owns 20 per cent of the original capital of the company.

Between 1983 and 1986, when the company was building its own premises, it used the JTV studios. The development of the studios and the enormity of the project was to create pan-Arab studios to replace those formerly used in Greece, Mr. Maraheh said.

An Austrian consortium was contracted to design and construct a building made of expensive stone from the West Bank. It houses two 600-square-metre studios, equipped by British firms, which supplied Japanese equipment, levying 26 per cent interest on the cost price, according to Tareq Masarweh, who served as general manager of the company between 1983-85.

The expense outweighed the JD5 million capital (equivalent to \$15 million in 1983) by an additional

JD5-5.5 million, which incurred soft loans from foreign banks, Messrs. Maraheh and Masarweh told the Jordan Times.

"It was a waste of money. Studios in Hollywood are built cheaper," said Mr. Masarweh.

It had the potential to be successful; from 1984-85 it produced a children's television workshop of 62 episodes, which earned the company \$1 million, Mr. Masarweh said. It also produced drama serials and sold them to Saudi Arabia, other Gulf states, Syria and Tunisia, he said.

"But the (overhead) costs were enormous," he added.

Mr. Maraheh said that "to have borrowed more than the original capital was a mistake, not corruption."

He explained that liquidity problems were exacerbated after the Gulf crisis which led to a strain in Jordan's relations with the Gulf states, the company's main market.

Other difficulties contributing to the company's insolvency were the devaluation of the Jordanian dinar in 1988 and the increased focus on outdoor film shooting rather than using studio facilities, he said.

Mr. Maraheh said there had been marketing problems as well. Some custom-

ers have difficulty paying in hard currencies; receipt of payment is often delayed and in some cases they do not buy the programmes after they have been produced, he explained.

He blamed the company's inability to develop, while smaller, private enterprises continue to do so, on its high running costs.

Mr. Maraheh would like to see the company's equipment updated, to face increasing competition from television production businesses outside Jordan. The equipment has already exceeded its life expectancy of 5-7 years and has been rendered obsolete by the new era of production technology. But this would require a large budget, which the company, currently unable to repay its debts, does not have, he said.

The lease is a stopgap measure which, in time, may be able to assist the company in attaining Arab World recognition as originally conceived.

Despite the lease, administration will remain in the hands of the management committee, Mr. Maraheh asserted.

The winners of the lease will be announced Monday and the subject will begin on Oct. 1. Sources say that Sheikh Saleh is offering around JD 500,000 as lease payment, but Mr. Maraheh declined to reveal specifics.

UNRWA employees to get raise — chief

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan's more than 6,000 United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) employees will receive a JD10 increase on their monthly salaries starting November, according to newly-appointed UNRWA Director in Jordan Ele Saaf.

Mr. Saaf, who made the announcement at a meeting with Minister of State Mohammad Thweib Sunday, said that the raise was in conformity with a government decision to give a JD10 monthly increase to civil servants this year.

Despite financial constraints on the agency, UNRWA decided to go ahead with the raise, but it continues to face a recurrent deficit in its annual budget.

According to a draft report on UNRWA affairs to be submitted to the U.N. General Assembly by the agency's commissioner general, UNRWA's 1994-1995 operations budget is \$632.3 million, covering Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

The agency announced last

month that it had started 1994 with a projected deficit of \$43 million in its regular and emergency budget. It had since been able to reduce the deficit to about \$30 million because of donations from several countries.

Mr. Thweib requested that UNRWA give special attention to the protection of the environment and cleanliness and hygiene in and around the refugee camps in Jordan.

In discussing the living conditions of camp residents, the minister told Mr. Saaf that the camps have witnessed

large population increases that resulted in additional pressure on the government-run health, educational and social services.

He urged the agency to increase the number of employees in cleaning services and health centres, and to extend the clinic hours to the afternoon instead of closing at 2:00 p.m.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said that Mr. Saaf and Mr. Thweib agreed to form a joint committee to plan projects for the development of the refugee camps.

CALL FOR EMPLOYMENT CEILING: Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali Sunday attends a meeting of Ministry of Planning department heads at which he called for a ceiling on the employment of additional staff at all ministries. Dr. Majali urged that a study of ministry staff requirements be made and stressed the importance of recruiting the most qualified individuals to fill department vacancies. Attending the regularly scheduled weekly meeting were Minister of Planning Hisham Khatib and Secretary General Nabil Ammari (Petra photo)



HUDD to build housing for JEA staff — official

AMMAN (Petra) — The Housing and Urban Development Department (HUDD) plans to build a housing estate for Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) employees and workers in Aqaba at the cost of JD3.5 million, in accordance with a contract signed in Amman Sunday.

HUDD Director General Yousef Hiyasat said the JEA will build 144 housing units in 24 buildings with a total area of 550 square metres each, according to the plan.

The project entails setting up 96 units of the "A" category and 48 units of the "B" category in these buildings, and each of the buildings will include six flats, said Mr. Hiyasat who signed the deal with JEA Director General Mohammad Saeed Arafeh.

The beneficiaries will be JEA staff, including clerical engineering and JEA Project workers, he said adding that the units will be occupied by the workers for as long as they are employed by the JEA.

According to Mr. Hiyasat, HUDD will also build facilities for social services and will connect the housing estate to the local infrastructure of roads, water, sewerage, telephone and electricity networks.

Under the contract,



Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) Director General Mohammad Saeed Arafeh (second left) and Housing and Urban Development Department (HUDD) Director General Yousef Hiyasat (third left) Sunday sign a contract for the construction of a housing estate for JEA staff in Aqaba (Petra photo)

tor General Yousef Hiyasat (third left) Sunday sign a contract for the construction of a housing estate for JEA staff in Aqaba (Petra photo)

HUDD will prepare the designs and the tender documents and award the construction work to a local contracting firm, Mr. Hiyasat said.

He added that the contracting firm, working under HUDD supervision, would be expected to complete the construction in 18 months.

For his part, Mr. Arafeh said that this was the first housing estate to be built by HUDD for JEA employees and he expressed appreciation of the level of cooperation with HUDD in benefiting the workers.

Mr. Arafeh said the JEA intends to ensure appropriate housing for its employees in

the Aqaba region, where the JEA is operating major power projects including the Aqaba Thermal Power Station and where a power linkage is connected to the Egyptian electricity grid through the Sinai.

JEA employs 2,200 workers at its projects in various parts of the country.

JPA voices solidarity with Cuban people

Visiting team discusses effect of U.S. sanctions on island

By Odeh Odeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Jordan Press Association (JPA) Sunday voiced its solidarity with the people of Cuba in the face of U.S. sanctions imposed on the Caribbean island for the past 32 years.

JPA President Suleiman Qudus said the embargo on Cuba is worse than weapons of mass destruction and should be banned worldwide.

Speaking at a meeting with visiting representatives of Cuba's women's federation, Mariam Santana and Nancy Iglesias, Mr. Qudus said the Arabs know full well the devastating consequences of embargoes imposed on Iraq and Libya, adding that embargoes aim at wrecking the morale of nations.

He said he recently visited Iraq and was deeply affected by the results of the sanctions imposed on the Iraqi people.

The JPA understands the



Jordan Press Association President Suleiman Qudus Sunday meets with Mariam Santana and Nancy Iglesias, representing a Cuban women's federation. The two visiting women were accompanied by Mrs. Yacoub Zayadin (left)

situation in Cuba despite the hostile western media which aims at marring that country's image before the world, said Mr. Qudus.

For their part the two-member team referred to the several thousand Cuban emigrants and said that west-

ern media and U.S. propaganda were exploiting the migration and referring to the emigrants as "boat people."

It is regrettable that the world knows so little about the 11 million people of Cuba where illiteracy is non-existent and where everyone enjoys free medical services, said the two women.

Cuba has been struggling for survival under extremely difficult circumstances and has succeeded in protecting its freedom and its dignity and independence against many odds in the face of the 32-year-old embargo, said the visiting team.

With the exception of the United States, Israel and Romania, the present embargo was rejected by the U.N. General Assembly in its 91st and 92nd sessions as illegal, they added.

Ms. Santana and Ms. Iglesias, who arrived in Amman Friday, were on Sunday received by Taher Masri, speaker of the Lower House of Parliament, who discussed Cuban-Jordanian parliamentary relations.

The Cuban team is due to leave for Havana today after a meeting with Secretary General of the Jordanian Communist Party Yacoub Zayadin.

School stampede injures 18 students

AMMAN (Petra) — An outdoor electrical emergency Sunday created a panic at the Laila Al Ghabraiah School in south Marka resulting in the injury of 18 students.

An electrical contact caught a live cable and caused sparks and smoke outside the school.

In a panic, students and teachers stampeded out of the three-storey building.

The injured children were taken to Ashrafiah Hospital for first aid and treatment.

Two children were discharged, and nine others were listed in fair condition.

WHAT'S GOING ON

EXHIBITIONS

- * Exhibition of oil paintings by Kamal Boulata entitled "Dests, Quartets, and a Triangle" at Darat Al Funn of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Lawehdeh. Also showing "permanent exhibition of 56 Arab contemporary artists (Tel. 643251/2).
- * Exhibition by artist Nadim Muhsin at the French Cultural Centre.
- * Exhibition of stained glass and icons by Olla Rucio at The Gallery at the Hotel Intercontinental (8:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. except on Friday) (Tel. 641361).
- * Two exhibitions of abstract art respectively by Marwan 'Alan and a group of Jordanian artists at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- * Exhibition of paintings by Nasir Tamir at Ain Art Gallery, Wadi Sagra St. (Tel. 644451).
- * "The Golden Crown Exhibition" of Jordanian national products at the Amman Auto Exhibition, Airport Road.
- * Exhibition of handicrafts at Haya Cultural Centre (Tel. 604600).
- * Exhibition of oil paintings by Rashad Salim at Ab'ad Art Gallery (10:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.) (Tel. 819861).
- * Exhibition of paintings by Syrian artist Wafiq Karishi at Baladina Art Gallery (Tel. 687598).
- * "The Dimes Exhibit" — beginnings of photography in Jerusalem and the Holy Land at the American Center exhibition hall, Abdoun.

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Royal Norwegian Embassy announces the opening of its Chancellery in Amman. The location is: Jabal Amman, 3rd Circle, Qais Bin Sa'ida Street, Villa 33. Opposite Hotel Intercontinental. Opening hours: 09 a.m. - 3 p.m. Visa Section: 10-12 a.m. Closed: Friday & Saturday. Tel.: 644932-644933-644934

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Z281



French soldiers load the bags of some of the 170 French troops returning to France at the eastern Zairean airport of Goma. About 280 of the 500 French troops based in Goma since the humanitarian Operation Turquoise ended remain, and they should be progressively pulled out by the end of September (AFP photo)

Zaire wants Rwandan refugees moved from frontier camps

KIGALI (R) — Zaire, trying to cope with an estimated one million Rwandan refugees camped inside its borders, has asked for U.N. help to move some away from the frontier, a senior U.N. official said Sunday.

Ambassador Shaharyar Khan, the U.N. special representative to Rwanda, told reporters the Zairean authorities had requested help to move tens of thousands of refugees to a camp 150 kilometres away from the frontier.

Another U.N. official said the proposal was aimed at army and militias of the ousted Rwanda government, who are accused of terrorising the estimated one million refugees still in Zaire.

"Zaire has made it clear that it wants to separate the defeated army from the rest of the refugees," said the second U.N. official, who asked not to be named.

"If they are moved, then the ordinary peasants can decide freely whether they want to go home or not."

A tidal wave of refugees poured into the Zairean border town of Goma in July following the defeat of the former government by the Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF).

Agencies estimate 28,000 troops of the defeated Rwandan army crossed with the other refugees. Some were disarmed but many retained and hid weapons.

In addition to threatening Rwandans against returning to their home country, there have been reports that some former soldiers also are planning guerrilla attacks into Rwanda.

Over the past fortnight, the U.N. has said it was imperative to end the former army's rule of terror so the peasants could return to their homes and farms before the coming rainy season.

Mr. Khan said the decision on whom should be moved would be made by a Joint Task Force consisting of the U.N., their aid agencies and Zaire which would meet in the next few days.

Zaire said earlier this month it wanted the Rwandan refugees on its territory to leave by the end of the month and promised to stop Hutu militiamen terrorising refugees into staying.

Diplomats in Kigali, however, said it could be difficult to move the defeated army from its present power base. There are not enough U.N. troops to consider moving them into the camps to disarm the Rwandans.

If the defeated Rwandan soldiers are to be moved, Mr. Khan said, they would have to be treated as civilians so

the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) could transport them if necessary.

"The conversion would be optical not real," Mr. Khan said. "The army would be put in civilian dress because constitutionally UNHCR and ICRC cannot provide aid to people in uniform."

The Joint Task Force would report to the U.N. within a fortnight on sites for the new camps, the cost of the operation, and on numbers to be moved.

The international community would be asked to finance the transfer because Zaire has neither the money nor the logistics for such an operation.

Mr. Khan said Zaire had also asked that senior officials of the ousted Rwandan government be moved from Goma.

"Zaire does not want to be accused (by the new Rwan-

dan government) of harbouring people who are fomenting revolution," he said.

Mr. Khan could not say which other country might accept the leaders of a regime which has been accused of genocide.

Meanwhile, Rwandan Prime Minister Faustin Twagiramungu has appointed Jean-Baptiste Ndayungoma as his information minister, Rwanda Radio reported.

Mr. Twagiramungu announced the appointment at a meeting of the council of ministers, which Saturday discussed the setting-up of a parliament.

The government asked the various political formations to prepare to present their candidates, the radio said.

No parliament has functioned in Rwanda since the April assassination of Hutu President Juvenal Habyarimana that spurred ethnic bloodletting which killed hundreds of thousands of minority Tutsis.



Twelve-year-old Rwandan refugee Philippe Miribo (centre) leaves the eastern Zairean airport of Goma for a Parisian hospital with 170 French troops returning to France. Miribo was badly injured while picking up a grenade that killed his brother, on a Goma street. The weapon cut off his left hand and his face to pieces. The surgery unit of the French military hospital at the airport saved his life, reshaped his face and saved one of his eyes (AFP photo)

Hong Kong votes in modest numbers in first test of Patten's reforms

HONG KONG (Agencies) — Hong Kong voters came out in modest numbers Sunday to vote for the first time under democratic reforms introduced by Governor Chris Patten that have enraged China.

By early evening, nearly 22 per cent of registered voters had cast ballots for new district advisory councils, known as district boards, in the first test of public support for Patten's controversial reforms in the British territory, 33 months before its hand-back to China.

The proportion was similar to that seen at the last district board elections three years ago.

"I hope it's very satisfying day for Hong Kong," Mr. Patten told reporters as he visited a suburban polling station. "I think it's the mark of a civilised society like this to see husbands and wives coming in with their children to cast their votes."

p.m. (1430 GMT) with first results due after midnight.

At stake are 346 seats on 18 district boards, which advise the government on such neighbourhood issues as garbage collection, noise abatement, road works and public transit.

It is the first time all seats are being filled by election — previously some were appointed by the governor — and three political parties, including one closely allied with Beijing, are in the running.

But with only about 40 per cent of voters expected to turn out on an overcast day, political analysts say Hong Kong's traditional antipathy for politics risked confusing the outcome.

China has already declared it will scrap all tiers of elected government in Hong Kong come July 1997, including the next Legislative Council to be elected in September next year.

Though Beijing never endorsed Mr. Patten's reforms, one of its main newspapers in Hong Kong, Wen Wei Po, said it was "a matter of course" for those who "love China and love Hong Kong" to cast their ballots.

Activists from Hong Kong's major political parties converged outside polling stations to canvass last-minute support, while many public buildings had been plastered overnight with bright posters for various candidates.

In a survey of 813 voters, the Sunday Morning Post newspaper found 51 per cent still undecided. Of those who had chosen, 15 per cent opted for the Democratic Party, whose leaders are critical of China's Communist regime.

The Democrats have 133 candidates in the running, compared with 90 for the pro-business Liberal Party and 83 for the Democratic Alliance for the Betterment of Hong Kong, which has closed ties with Beijing.

Bosnian Serbs expel hundreds of Muslims

SARAJEVO (R) — Bosnian Serbs, defiant in the face of further isolation, expelled hundreds of Muslims from Serb-held territory Sunday and continued blocking water and power supplies to the capital Sarajevo.

Bosnian Muslim civilians driven from their homes in the Bijeljina region of north-east Bosnia in the latest wave of Serb "ethnic cleansing" crossed front lines to government-held land, the International Committee of the Red Cross and U.N. relief officials said.

The refugees told aid workers some 1,700 people had been forced out of Janja, 10 kilometres south of Bijeljina, according to Margerite Prins, a representative of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

"We don't have that much information at the moment. But we think about 1,000 people have come across so far," Ms. Prins said in Muslim-held Tuzla.

"We are expecting 1,700 before the day is out, based on what those people crossing have told us."

The refugees had to walk across front lines to safety in the Tuzla area, and some had to be taken to hospital for treatment for exhaustion.

The latest expulsions brought to more than 7,000 the number of Muslim driven from their homes in Bosnia by Serb forces since mid-July.

Sunday's influx of refugees came a day after about 700 Muslims, mostly women, children and the elderly, fled Serb-held Banja Luka, the United Nations said.

The U.N. Security Council and international human rights organisations have condemned the recent Serb campaign of ethnic cleansing, but

appear powerless to stop it. Bosnian Serbs showed no signs of easing a blockade of utilities to Sarajevo, where people have been forced to carry water from natural springs and tank trucks.

The Bosnian capital has been without electricity, water and gas since Thursday, when Serb forces surrounding the city cut off supplies in a move reminiscent of the darkest days of the city's siege.

"There's no doubt now this is being condoned at the highest levels by Bosnian Serb officials," a U.N. source, who asked not to be named, said Sunday.

U.N. peacekeeping officials were still trying to persuade the Serbs to relent, but talks with Serb leaders Saturday proved unsuccessful.

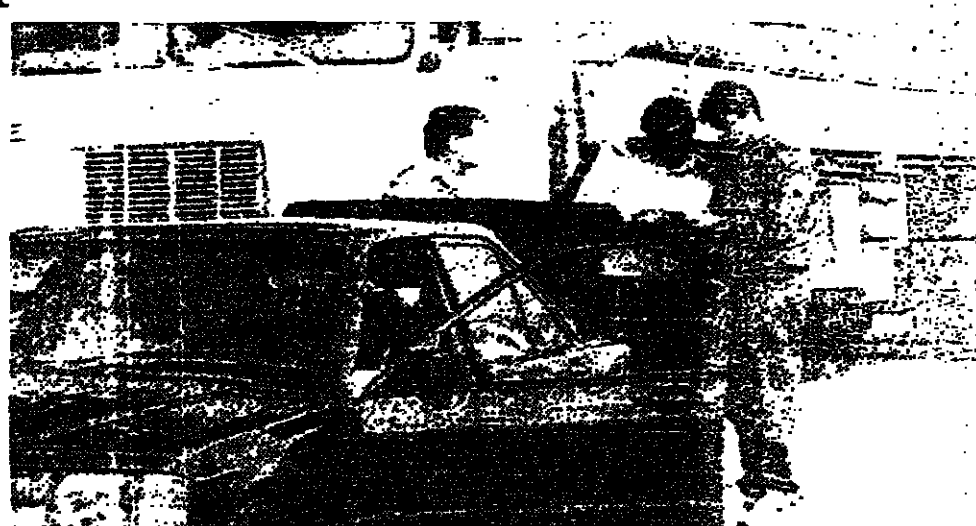
The embattled city's hospitals bore the brunt of the utilities cuts.

"We have no water or electricity and we are running the generator for emergency cases only in the surgery theatre," said Dr. Meldiana Omerbegovic, a surgeon at the Kosevo Hospital.

Serbs control the low of gas and electricity to Sarajevo and road access. Water cannot be pumped without electric power.

The latest Serb move has prompted fears they are retaliating against U.N. plans to take tougher measures against them for rejecting the latest international peace plan.

The big power "contact group" for Bosnia — the United States, Russia, Britain, France and Germany — asked the Security Council Friday to tighten sanctions against the Bosnian Serbs to try to force them to negotiate.



A customs officer of ramp Yugoslavia (centre) checks the papers of a driver and the trunk of monitors have not been deployed on the car at the Yugoslav border crossing point on the Bosnian border. The international civilian borders yet (AFP photo)

They also urged the U.N. to ease sanctions against Yugoslavia in return for its military blockade imposed against the Bosnian Serbs for opposing the peace deal.

The major powers said the sanctions against Yugoslavia should be eased to allow international air travel and sports and cultural links for an initial 100 days while international monitors check the border blockade.

Meanwhile French Defence Minister Francois Leotard said Sunday France currently opposes massive air strikes against Bosnian Serbs because they would endanger United Nations peacekeepers on the ground.

"When one talks of massive attacks, our soldiers are in direct contact with the adversaries," Mr. Leotard said.

"Where are you going to strike by air?" he asked in an interview on France-2 Televi-

sion. "I have a responsibility. I don't want to needlessly endanger the peacekeepers' lives."

Mr. Leotard had been asked about a split between U.N. and NATO commanders over the issue of new air attacks, for which NATO wants more support after increased Serb attacks on so-called "safe areas" in Bosnia and in heavy weapons exclusion zones.

Mr. Leotard said military action was still an option for the major powers, but for the moment he opposed such a move because of the opposition of U.N. commanders and the exposure of many French and British troops, he said.

"One must always listen to the commanders on the ground," Mr. Leotard said. Mr. Leotard said the situation around Sarajevo was "very serious" but also "very complicated."

"About half of the ceasefire violations are due to the Muslims," he said. "The most recent firing on the Sarajevo Airport runways came from Bosnian Muslims."

Mr. Leotard reiterated France's opposition to a lifting of the Bosnian arms embargo, saying it should only be a last resort.

Referring to his plan to attend a NATO defence ministers' meeting in Seville, Spain, at the end of the month, he said this did not signal a change in French policy.

Although France would not rejoin NATO's military structure, it would consider attending future defence meetings "on a case-by-case basis," he said.

While remaining a full political member of NATO, Paris withdrew from the alliance's Military Command 23 years ago to protest at what it saw as U.S. domination of its operations.

Yeltsin to meet Georgian, Abkhaz leaders

MOSCOW (R) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin plans to meet the leaders of Georgia and its breakaway region of Abkhazia Monday to discuss the long-running conflict in the former Soviet republic, ITAR-TASS news agency said Sunday.

Quoting Mr. Yeltsin's press secretary Vyacheslav Kostikov, it said the talks with Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze and Abkhazia's Vladislav Ardzinba would be held in the Black Sea resort of Sochi where Mr. Yeltsin is on holiday.

Earlier, Mr. Yeltsin met his defence minister, Pavel Grachev, who reported on talks Friday between Mr. Shevardnadze and Mr. Ardzinba.

Georgia and Abkhazia agreed Saturday to resettle thousands of ethnic Georgians who fled the secessionist region a year ago in a war, Russia's independent NTV television channel reported.

The deal was concluded in the Abkhaz capital Sukhumi between Gen. Grachev, his Georgian counterpart Verden Nadibaidze and Mr. Ardzinba, NTV said Saturday.

Gen. Grachev told NTV the resettlement would begin in the coming days and that Georgia would withdraw its military equipment from the area. The return had been due to start last Wednesday.

It was the first major breakthrough in the conflict since Abkhaz rebels drove Georgian forces from the region a year ago.

Mr. Grachev was sent to the region earlier this week to try to defuse a crisis over the proposed return of the refugees.

The Abkhaz parliament denounced the Russian peacekeeping force, stationed on the border between Georgia and Abkhazia, over its plans to allow thousands of Georgians back into the southern Abkhaz district of Gali.

Some 250,000 ethnic Georgians were forced out of Abkhazia by separatists backed unofficially by some Russian army officers.

The agreement on resettling the refugees came just a day after the unexpected meeting between Mr. Shevardnadze and Mr. Ardzinba.

A year ago, former Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze was forced to flee Abkhazia under fire in a military aircraft after the region fell.

After Haiti, U.S. may face Bosnia mission

LONDON (R) — The United States, poised to invade Haiti, may soon have troops to Bosnia for the first time to help a withdrawal of U.N. peacekeepers, diplomats and Western military sources say.

NATO agreed last week to draw up contingency plans for an alliance force, including U.S. troops, to be sent in if an arms embargo is lifted and the "blue helmets" are attacked while attempting to pull out of Bosnia.

While the plans will require political approval and would be used only if the U.N. forces ran into trouble, they point to a disturbing scenario for Washington and its allies.

U.N. forces in Bosnia will be withdrawn if arms embargo is lifted to help the Muslim-led government. Washington, despite opposition from its allies, is seeking U.N. approval for lifting the ban and may do so unilaterally if necessary.

"There is tremendous, bitter irony here," said one European diplomat, who asked not to be identified.

"There is quite a reasonable chance that the Americans will effectively force the U.N. troops to withdraw

from Bosnia and will then have to commit their own troops under the worst possible circumstances as a result."

If this happens, U.S. President Bill Clinton will face another difficult choice. His plan to invade Haiti has been unpopular in Congress and lacks public support.

To prevent further damage to his credibility at home, Mr. Clinton could obviously refuse to commit U.S. troops to aid a withdrawal from Bosnia — an operation that would be bloodier and far more difficult than the invasion of Haiti.

But diplomats said he would then be accused by key NATO allies like France and Britain of abandoning them to their fate, causing serious damage to trans-Atlantic relations already strained by differences over how to end the war in Bosnia.

Until now, Washington has said it would deploy ground troops in Bosnia only as part of a NATO force to police a peace deal agreed by all the warring parties.

Wary of greater involvement in peacekeeping following a disaster in Somalia, the United States would prefer to

offer only air support to any future U.N. withdrawal from Bosnia, using warplanes already patrolling the skies there.

But U.N. and NATO military officials say that would not be enough if the peacekeepers run into serious problems and the United States has reluctantly approved the start of NATO planning for an alliance ground force in case it is needed.

The commander of U.N. troops in former Yugoslavia, French General Bertrand De Lapresle, said during a visit to NATO last week that he could need help from the 16-nation alliance if the evacuation from Bosnia ran into trouble.

There are more than 20,000 U.N. troops in Bosnia but they are lightly-armed and would be unable to fight their way through to the Adriatic coast or to airports for evacuation if they came under attack, military officials say.

Although the United Nations and NATO hope the peacekeepers will be able to leave with the minimum of trouble, they are worried that the troops will be perceived

by the Serbs as hostile forces if the arms embargo is lifted.

U.N. commanders have two sets of plans for a possible evacuation, military sources say. The first assumes a "benign environment" and would require only some extra transport planes from NATO and existing air cover.

The second set of plans provide for evacuation in a "hostile environment". Military sources said the U.N. troops would be able to do little else but regroup, dig in and wait for NATO help if they were under attack.

Deploying U.S. troops as part of that force would be unpopular with Congress, which may force Mr. Clinton to lift the arms embargo unilaterally if there is no U.N. support.

But military officials say the use of U.S. military might would be a vital part of any alliance deployment in Bosnia.

"The Americans are the ones with the speed and the power we would need if things went badly wrong with a withdrawal," said one NATO military official. "The peacekeepers who are in Bosnia are too lightweight to get out on their own."

South African leaders to discuss Zulu split

JOHANNESBURG (R) — President Nelson Mandela will hold talks Monday with two of South Africa's most influential Zulu leaders in a bid to defuse growing tensions in the tribal region.

A spokesman for Mr. Mandela said Sunday he would meet Zulu King Goodwill Zwelithini and chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, leader of the Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom Party, at the king's palace in Nongoma in the KwaZulu-Natal region.

"(They) will meet to exchange views and clear the confusion and tension surrounding the Shaka Day celebration," the spokesman said.

"The three leaders are keen to ensure this day is celebrated with the dignity befitting King Shaka, a national hero who is revered beyond the borders of any single province."

"They are confident that this matter will be resolved in a manner that will allow the day to be celebrated with the integrity it deserves," the spokesman said.

Shaka Day, to be marked next Saturday, commemorates the 19th century warrior king regarded as the founder of the Zulu tribe, which today numbers about nine million people and is South Africa's biggest ethnic group.

A row erupted last month over an invitation to the event which King Zwelithini was reported to have sent to

Mr. Mandela. Mr. Buthelezi, who is the king's uncle and calls himself the king's traditional prime minister, said he knew nothing about an invitation.

Mr. Buthelezi, who serves as home affairs minister in the government of national unity, waged a bitter campaign against Mr. Mandela's African National Congress (ANC) in the run-up to the country's first all-race elections last April.

About 15,000 people were killed in violence fuelled largely by ANC-Inkatha rivalry in the last decade.

The controversy over the Shaka Day celebration was among several incidents in recent months signalling a split between Mr. Buthelezi and the king.

Mr. Buthelezi, 65, has for many years maintained close links with the king in what political analysts saw as a strategy to gain the support of Zulu royalists.

Last Saturday Mr. Buthelezi failed for the first time in a decade to attend an important traditional Zulu ceremony the Reed Dance, at the king's residence.

Senior members of the ANC, National Health Minister Nkosizana Zuma and her husband Jacob, a minister in the regional administration, shared the place with the king and Inkatha provincial Premier Frank Mdlalose.

Italy's Bossi renews attacks on Berlusconi

ROME (R) — The appointment of a new group of programme directors at state broadcaster RAI has undermined the fragile relationship between Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi and his unpredictable Northern League allies.

"It's been a bad day for the League. The League has suffered a heavy blow. From today Berlusconi has in fact six television channels," fiery Northern League leader Umberto Bossi told a rally Saturday night.

Media magnate Berlusconi's Fininvest holding owns three commercial television channels which are the main rivals to the RAI's own three channels.

Mr. Berlusconi swept to power in a general election last March at the head of a Freedom Alliance in which his own Forza Italia (Go Italy) Party, the neo-fascist-led National Alliance and the League were the main partners.

The League supplies five ministers to the Berlusconi government although Mr. Bossi is not one of them.

The relationship between Mr. Bossi and Mr. Berlusconi has been stormy, with the Northern League leader mounting a series of verbal attacks on the prime minister who took office in May.

Mr. Bossi told Saturday night's rally that the League

would continue to support the government but press ahead with plans to introduce anti-trust legislation in the sphere of the media.

The daily newspaper La Stampa wrote Sunday that Italy was entering a new political phase which seemed likely to lead to early elections next spring.

Mr. Bossi created a storm last month when he accused Berlusconi of secretly plotting snap elections, an accusation which the prime minister dismissed out of hand.

The latest bone of contention is Saturday's appointment of editors for the state radio and television network, which split the five-member RAI board, two of whom reportedly voted against the nominations.

Mr. Bossi accused Mr. Berlusconi of reverting to old-style politics and denying the League any representation in the RAI.

"Berlusconi and his friends came to an agreement, they gave the Communists the third (television) channel, so we find ourselves back with a regime that wants to control everyone and everything," the Northern League leader said.

Under the old order Italian politics, which ended until a corruption scandal swept many players from the scene, top public sector executives were carved up between established political parties.

Jordan Times

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Preparing for the big one

OFFICIAL AND PRIVATE reaction to Friday's early morning earthquake, some 20 kilometres west of Amman, is indeed worrying because the next tremor may not be as frail as 4.5 on the Richter Scale. The latest earthquake's epicentre was far from the major Jordanian cities but luck may not repeat itself. The fact is that the Jordan Valley is a fertile territory for tremors of different magnitudes. Amman and other Jordanian cities have a history of major and minor earthquakes. Some 30 tremors have jolted the country in August of 1993, registering between 3.8 and 5.7 on the Richter Scale. Yet the official and non-official reaction to this phenomenon that might lead to natural disasters is so mild as if there is nothing that we can do to contain any eventual damage that could occur should a stronger earthquake hit the country.

To begin with, the concerned authorities need to promulgate their damage control policies in the case of an earthquake. We seem to lack sophisticated guidelines for a futuristic construction code that would aim to minimise loss of life and material damage should a major earthquake strike. Clearly, we cannot undo what has already been built but we certainly can plan for all future constructions, be they houses, apartment buildings or factories. The experiences and know-how of other countries of the world with a history of earthquakes can certainly be used to plan in this regard.

Current legislation on buildings do not seem to cater for the probability of earthquakes striking at major centres of the country. Are current construction designs and construction material, for example, safe enough for such eventualities? Should an earthquake strike, do we have appropriate machineries to save life and prevent wider devastation caused by fire, the failure of highway networks, and the collapse of municipal services? There are many other questions that could be asked but remain unanswered, and this is the time to start probing once again this problem in all its dimensions. What is needed in this regard are emergency plans drawn for the country as a whole and for each work place. Drills at schools, factories, office buildings and public centres would then follow so that our people would know exactly what to do to face such sudden dangers.

We think the way to go about dealing with earthquakes and other natural disasters is to establish a task force composed of eminent scientists from academia as well as high-ranking officials to examine the different aspects of this matter. The recommendations of such a group of experts should then be presented to Parliament as a high priority issue with a view to translating its recommendations into municipal and national laws. We certainly should not wait till disaster hits the country before we start addressing earth tremors in a serious and effective manner.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

EGYPT HAS achieved a remarkable success by organising the U.N. Conference on Population and Development in Cairo because it allowed the Third World nations the chance to air their views concerning population and ways to ensure sustainable development. The final document, known as the Cairo Declaration, was a landmark document endorsed by the conference which the world community's respect for religious and moral beliefs for each country and left the door open for each country to adopt the most suitable methods in family planning, said the writer. Certain countries, which boycotted the conference, deprived themselves of the chance to air their views before the world because they had thought that certain concepts would be imposed on them through that conference, he said. The conference also proved untrue rumours that said that countries which oppose the conference resolutions would risk being denied any foreign aid, added the writer. Indeed the conference offered the chance to the Third World to present their views and concerns before the world community. The writer said that the Third World countries have been complaining of poverty and indebtedness and allowing their nationals to emigrate to the Western world, and he said, it is time for these countries to adopt acceptable measures to ensure safe family planning among their population.

Human Rights File

More democracy, more crime!

By Waleed Sa'idi

BRITAIN RECENTLY disclosed that its price tag on fighting crime exceeds its defence budget. While we do not know the cost of preventing and punishing crime in other Western societies, we can be sure that it is exorbitantly high also. There is a lesson to be drawn from the prohibitive figures for waging war on crime in the West and other countries that are fast emulating their experiences and methods. For one thing, there appears to be a clear correlation between the rise of "democracy" and the rise in crime in the world.

I do not suggest that the pursuit of democracy necessarily leads to the proliferation of crime. But the fact remains that empirical evidence points clearly and loudly to the relationship between greater dosages of civil liberties associated with modern day type of democracy and the hike in the rate of crime worldwide. The reverse is unfortunately true. The less democracy there is in many societies, the less the crime rate.

When Russia was still a part of undemocratic Soviet Union, its streets were literally free of crime. And when the U.S. and other Western countries further eroded public rights for law and order in favour of individual rights in criminal apprehension and prosecution and punishment, a dramatic jump in crime rate occurred. Even in Jordan one can detect a link between the rise in crime in the country and the relaxation of police power and the liberalisation of

civil protections accorded to individuals. The dynamics of modernisation and heightened poverty in the country have certainly taken their toll on law and order.

As a matter of fact, it is not a must to suffer a high crime rate simply because there is a viable democracy in any given country. Democracy and liberties need not and must not lead to unsafe streets or a drug problem.

Could the issue then be the existence of just too much democracy? Is there such a thing as too much or too little democracy? I think the answer is yes and no. Democracy world wide comes in dosages and in varying degrees. There are many nations which profess to having democracy but they enjoy freedom and liberties only in name.

Obviously, such category of states have little or no democracy. On the other side of the pendulum sits the category of countries which enjoy full democracy in word and deed. In between lies the group of countries which have attained a certain degree and level of democracy but have not completed the road to full democracy.

The real issue, therefore, is not democracy per se or the lack of it as far as crime is concerned. A certain state may enjoy full and unimpeded pluralistic democracy but retain a sensible balance between the rights of individuals in crime prevention policies and those which belong to the public. Democracy as such does not preclude the preservation of such a reasonable balance. There is nothing inherent in democracy and freedom that calls for swinging the pendu-

lum on civil liberties too much off balance and in favour of criminals. Yet this is exactly what is happening to many Western-oriented nations, with the result that crime is taking its toll on human lives.

Where democracy per se may contribute to breakdown of law and order is when behavioural rules and guidelines crumble as a result of inflated or exaggerated private and individual rights. The breakdown of the family in contemporary societies, the root cause of crime, has often been attributed to relaxed rules on sex and sexual behaviours, loose parental-child relations and greater economic opportunities that are often associated with democracy. As AIDS, for example, is often associated with promiscuity, promiscuity can also be linked to the breakdown of traditions under the weight of greater individual freedoms and liberties.

The moral of these submissions is that we, the people, can have too much of anything and end up suffering from it. Where to draw the line between responsible democracy and a run-away one is of course easier said than done. Likewise, where to draw the line between basic and indispensable individual rights for the accused and those which tend to encourage the commission of crime is also the number one issue. This is where wise leadership and enlightened people can cooperate in defining where these illusive lines need to be drawn.

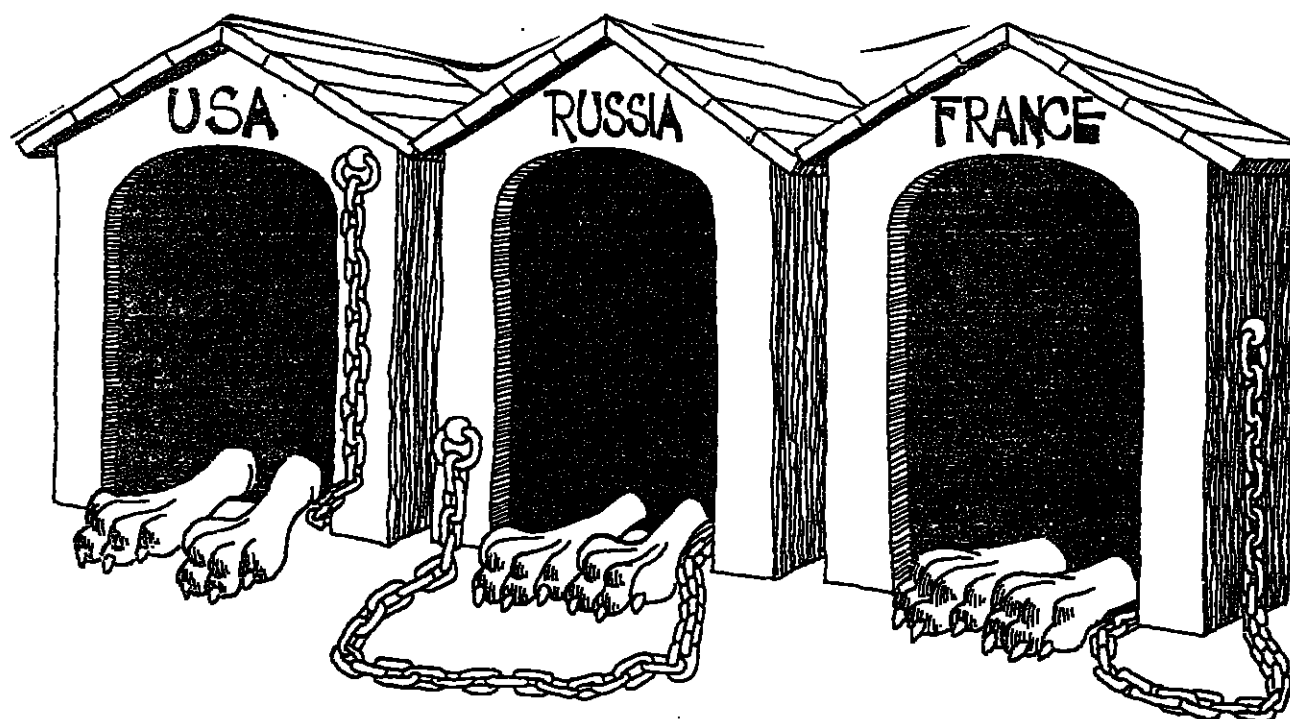


ILLUSTRATION PETER CLARKE

Peace in your own back yard

By Martin Woolacott

THE ARMADA now moving towards Haiti constitutes less a show of American force than a show of American weakness. It is not so much that this is a hammer raised to crush a gnat, as that President Clinton is paying the price in the Caribbean for his failure to commit American forces and resources in emergencies elsewhere in the world. The Haiti enterprise is also an indication of how far the distinction between international peacekeeping and purely national intervention has slipped in the last two years.

It is probably true that the men who run Haiti would not have hung on so long had President Clinton's history of empty words, particularly over Bosnia, and of retreat from situations in which American troops were at risk, as in Somalia, given them hope that, in the end, he would not order military action and that they would survive. They might, it is true, have reflected on a different kind of history and come to a different conclusion.

It seems to be the fate of small and virtually defenceless Caribbean and Central American states, as with Grenada for Reagan and Panama for Bush, to be picked out for exemplary American military justice, often after a president has

turned tail in other regions and feels the need for a display of martial virtues. Mr. Clinton has seized on Haiti, a military operation with the lowest possible costs, to demonstrate the resolve he has not demonstrated in other, more difficult circumstances. He still has had to contend with a resurgence of isolationism in the United States that is so extreme that it shrinks from action even in America's traditional back yard. Senator Bob Dole is only the more respectable end of a spectrum that sees Haitians as poor, black, and diseased, and that wants to avoid any form of contact, from military action to immigration.

It is hard to agree with Mr. Dole that the Haitian junta, murderous, usurping, and incompetent, should be left in place. What is wrong about the Haitian operation is not its aim, but that it is part of a patchy, regionalised system of peacekeeping that picks and chooses its interventions, won't tackle the really hard cases, and uses the United Nations as a rubber-stamp legitimiser, rather than genuinely following its procedures.

This is a world in which the might of the American military descends on a Caribbean island, but scrambles out of Somalia after being foolishly misused. It is a world in which the Russians have been left

Haiti is a chosen soft target in a system of U.N. peacekeeping that dodges tackling the tough cases

free for good or ill to police their former empire, and the French are allowed to play the great power in Africa, with what may prove to be unhappy results for Rwanda.

During the time that Mr. Clinton has been president, the opportunity to create a genuinely global system of peacekeeping and peace-making has been lost, largely because the U.S. decided that it could not sustain any commitments that were not clearly in American interests, and were not wholly under its control. The one impulse led to a legitimisation of spheres of influence and the other to the effective downgrading of the United Nations, which finds itself authorising rather than commanding operations. The result has been to blur the difference between true peacekeeping or peace-making and great power intervention in a way that was never the case during the cold war years. In those days, Russian interventions never had U.N. blessing, and European interventions, as with Suez and in the Congo, often fell foul of the United Nations. And American interventions — above all, in Viet-

nam — received no automatic U.N. imprimatur.

Mr. Clinton's address to the U.N. General Assembly in May last year defined the tight limits of American involvement in U.N. operations. Since the U.S. would avoid a role, except in very restricted circumstances, the corollary was a theory of peacekeeping by regional powers. The editor of foreign policy, Charles Maynes, drew out the logic of the administration's position in an article published at the turn of the year: "A policy of regional self-reliance would recognise that certain powerful states in each area will inevitably play a special security role." The international community would be forced, for lack of other options, to search for and legitimate some individual state — Russia, the U.S., India, China, the European Union — to serve as its "enforcer."

The problems with what Mr. Maynes calls "benign realpolitik" are many. One is that it can easily tip over into a new imperialism. The assumption by Russia of an exclusive peacekeeping mandate in the Caucasus and Central Asia is now so settled that it would be

almost impossible to reverse it.

The Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev bluntly says: "This is a zone of Russian interests and this is understood by all." Yet the Russians have not even been able to observe their own rules for ensuring a degree of impartiality, let alone to incorporate those of the U.N. And while this may be just acceptable while the present government is in power in Moscow, we might find it much less so if the regime was to change.

Another obvious flaw is that the anxiety of the U.S. to pass on responsibility is such that it has done so even when the regional "power" is incapable of taking it on. That is at least arguably true in former Yugoslavia, where the European powers do not have the military capacity credibly to threaten full-scale military action. The only country which possesses that is the U.S. But, while it withholds it, Washington still insists on its right to change the whole nature of the conflict by lifting its arms embargo.

There is also the problem that, while what are essentially national interventions wearing a U.N. hat get under way, the funds and logistics for genuine multinational operations are even slower to appear than they were before. Thus the French can intervene in

Rwanda while the provision of transport and other equipment for an African U.N. force — from countries which naturally need technical help with long-range operations — are dismally slow in appearing.

There is a stratospherically high-minded approach to peacekeeping which ignores the reality of national interests and military capacity. It demands that countries be ready to lose soldiers and money in situations in which they have little or no interest, or over which their commanders have no influence, or it imagines that demanding military operations can be organised by unsophisticated and ill-equipped states. Such an approach is doomed to failure. The realities of national interest and national capacity have to be recognised.

But the Clinton approach leans too much the other way. It threatens to combine the semi-imperial temptations of back-yard policing with a nearly total reluctance to commit forces to other regions, where they may be sorely needed, both the terms of their capacity and to sustain the vital principle that there is some genuine universality and impartiality in the internationally sanctioned use of force.

The Guardian

South Lebanon endures fighting, awaits peace

By Samir F. Ghattas

The Associated Press

South Lebanon — The people living on the last active Arab-Israeli front line still face death and destruction while peace progresses elsewhere.

Behind a facade of bustling towns and tranquil fruit orchards, Muslim guerrillas in south Lebanon confront Israeli soldiers and their Lebanese allies every day. Sometimes civilians are caught in the cross fire.

The guerrillas, mostly from the Hezbollah movement supported by Iran, are holed up in the Israeli-occupied zone. The Israelis spend most of their time in fortified positions.

"We have adapted to the war. You can say we have become immune," said Ayad Farhat, a dentist. He

lives so close to the Israeli lines that the soldiers could follow his movements inside the house with binoculars, or sniper rifles, if they wished.

A year ago, Mr. Farhat and half a million others fled north during an Israeli blitz in which 147 people were killed and 500 wounded. The Israelis were responding to guerrilla attacks that left several of their soldiers dead or wounded in the border "security zone."

This year, Mr. Farhat stayed in Nabatieh despite fears of a new bombardment.

In August, seven civilians were killed in an Israeli air raid on Deir Zahran village, six kilometres northwest of Nabatieh. Israel said the

attack was a mistake, but the guerrillas retaliated nonetheless, hitting northern Israel with rockets that wounded three children.

"We always worry, concerned about the action and the reaction," said Hussein Najm, a 30-year-old money-changer, pointing to hilltop Israeli outposts that flank Nabatieh on the north, east and south.

Hezbollah attacks the Israelis and their Lebanese militia allies in the buffer zone Israel established just north of the border after its first invasion of Lebanon in 1978. Israel retaliates with artillery fire and air strikes on Nabatieh and other towns it suspects of harbouring guerrillas.

Like so many other people in the region, Mr.

Farhat and Mr. Najm are sceptical that peace will reach them any time soon.

South Lebanon has been in the forefront of the Arab-Israeli conflict since the Jewish state was created in 1948. The 700,000 residents, predominantly Shiite Muslims, have paid dearly, especially in the last nine years of guerrilla warfare.

"Our hopes are hanging on the peace efforts," said Mr. Farhat, 34, a soft-spoken man with two children. "We say tomorrow it might come, or the day after, but we are growing sceptical of the whole process."

They have plenty of grounds for doubt.

Syria uses the Lebanese guerrillas as a pressure point in negotiations with

Israel, being conducted indirectly through U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher. Whenever Middle East peace efforts gain momentum, tension and fighting in south Lebanon increased.

Anxiety in the south deepened when Israel blamed Hezbollah for four bombings in July of Israeli and Jewish targets in Latin America and Britain. The bombs killed 116 people and wounded more than 100.

Then came two guerrilla ambushes of Israeli patrols in the "security zone" and rocket attacks on northern Israel.

Fearing a huge Israeli retaliation, some families in villages facing the border zone moved north temporarily. Others packed up, ready for a fast exit.

A Lebanese-American visiting relatives in Nabatieh said he'd had enough and left after only two weeks.

"I feel sorry for the people here," he said. "They never know whether they'll live or whether they'll still have a house the next day."

The visitor, a clothing wholesaler from the New York City borough of Brooklyn, requested anonymity because of the state department ban on travelling to Lebanon with a U.S. passport.

Despite his current feelings, he is optimistic about the future.

"There's going to be peace," he said. "I bought land to build on when peace comes."

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Syria to remove export taxes, unify exchange rates

DAMASCUS (R) — Syria will remove taxes on exports and will unify exchange rates as part of a package of economic reforms, Economy and Foreign Trade Minister Mohammad Imadi said.

He said the government was also working to amend the currency laws which impose harsh penalties of up to 15 years in jail with hard labour for currency traders.

The government daily Tishreen quoted Dr. Imadi Sunday as saying during a meeting with heads of foreign trade companies that a new law on shareholding would be issued soon and that the trade law would be amended.

The paper said the meeting was devoted to discussing how to implement directives contained in President Hafez Al Assad's major policy speech to parliament on Sept. 10.

Dr. Imadi said the government would give priority to foreign trade during the next period and would seek to extend the maximum support to that sector.

"We are seeking to cancel all taxes on exports which

currently amount to 35 per cent," Dr. Imadi said.

"It is illogical that Europe exempts its imports from us from taxes while we impose taxes that our exporters have to pay," he said.

"Boosting exports is a big necessity for us. Without it we can't import materials needed for our production," he added.

He said among measures aimed at boosting exports the government was setting a new centre to be responsible for monitoring exports to ensure they meet specifications in effect in the importing countries.

He said the government would also revise the trade protection laws and taxes imposed on imports to make them more flexible and to discourage imports.

"It is illogical that we impose a tax of one per cent on machinery like molds and then we impose a tax of 20 per cent on imports of the raw material necessary to make these molds," he said.

Dr. Imadi said the three existing exchange rates for the pound where causing big

head-ches to the government especially in preparation of statistics and the budget.

Syria has an official rate of 11.2 pounds to the dollar used in government transactions. A rate of 23 pounds to the dollar is used for customs duties while a rate of 42 pounds to the dollar is used in all other dealings.

The pound's rate in the black market has been stable at between 47 and 50 pounds to the dollar for several years.

Economists say the stability in the pound's value might encourage the government to free it and allow the price to be fixed on a daily basis according to market conditions.

Dr. Imadi expressed support for Syria's participation in the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

"We called for joining GATT because we believe that joining now is much better than joining tomorrow," he said. "Delay is not in our interest and we will have to pay the price in the future (if we don't join)."

Jordan government's income tax reform could boost capital spending

By Suleiman Al Khalidi
Reuters

AMMAN — Government plans for income tax reform have alarmed investors on Amman's small stock exchange but some economists argue that they could make the share market a more productive force in Jordan's development.

The proposals would tax the capital gains companies make on land deals, shares, bonds and treasury bills for the first time.

But companies would be taxed more lightly on their overall profits, according to a text of the unpublished draft, obtained by Reuters.

The dividends and capital gains of individual investors would remain tax free.

Economists say the combination is intended to encourage savers to invest in company stocks and other securities but discourage companies from playing the market.

If the plan works, banks and other companies would

be more likely to channel their funds into capital projects, they said.

Incomplete accounts of the proposed tax changes have been depressing the Amman stock market.

The last trading day, Saturday, saw the index close 142.13 at its lowest point this year, a 21 per cent drop from a peak of 181 points in July 1993. Monthly volume has shrunk to 42 million dinars (\$60.34 million) in August from a peak of 171 million dinars (\$245.6 million) in June 1993.

The head of the Lower House of Parliament's Financial Committee, Ali Abul Ragheb, has come out against the changes.

But Finance Minister Sami Gammoh, responding to widespread criticism, told

Reuters Saturday: "The market's fall and the fears of investors are totally unjustified."

"The government's tax plans are aimed at reducing the overall tax burden, including corporate, by getting rid of loopholes and ambiguities," Mr. Gammoh said.

He said the tax law changes, drafted by a state reform committee, were still at an early stage in discussion and formed part of a "comprehensive reform to remove all legal, administrative, and bureaucratic obstacles to boosting the investment climate."

The proposed legislation aims to streamline cumbersome taxation laws and reduce the overall corporate tax burden while easing personal taxation on lower in-

come families, he said.

"How can a government which is making all these steps to improve the investment climate be bent on choking investment," Mr. Gammoh added, saying critics had not studied the plan carefully.

Tax evasion is common in Jordan, a country facing \$6.9 billion in foreign debt, rising unemployment and a widening gap between rich and poor.

The proposed tax calls for a reduction of the maximum tax rate from 50 per cent to 40 per cent on gross profits of banks. It also reduces it to 35 per cent from 45 per cent for public shareholding companies.

Critics say that while it may reduce flat taxes on gross profits, the removal of other

corporate exemptions adds to the total corporate tax burden.

The drafters argued there was "no justification" in exempting these profits, as the treasury losing tax on these profits without economic return.

A provision to tighten the taxation of bank interest is causing concern among bankers, who warn it will lead to a capital flight of \$6 billion to \$10 billion in private funds which Jordanians hold abroad.

"I fear it will increase capital flight if they start taxing company profits earned on interest on deposits," said Adnan Al Salakh, general manager of ANZ Grady, wholly owned Jordanian subsidiary.

Angry Georgians protest against bread price hikes

MOSCOW (R) — Hundreds of angry Georgians blocked roads in the capital Tbilisi Saturday to protest against huge price rises for bread, announced by the government in line with International Monetary Fund (IMF) demands for austerity.

Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze apologised to the nation on state television as crowds packed into Tbilisi bakeries to stock up on bread still sold at old prices.

Mothers holding babies, grannies, small children and men blocked roads at the city centre, calling on the government to cancel the price hikes, Reuters television showed.

The government announced Friday that the price of bread would rise more than 280 times, natural gas more than five-fold and electricity about 11 times.

Users of Tbilisi's metro network would also have to pay 50 times more for a ticket.

The price rises are part of an austerity package agreed with the IMF to fight soaring inflation which has sent the value of Georgia's interim coupon currency nosediving to 2.5 million units against the dollar from one million early in August.

Mr. Shevardnadze said Georgia had to swallow the IMF's bitter medicine if it wanted much-needed funding from the West to stabilise its collapsing economy.

"I would like to apologise to everyone," the silver-haired former Soviet foreign

minister said.

"The permanent source which will help our country emerge from the crisis should be the IMF and the donors associated with the IMF. However, the IMF will never give you even a dollar if you are not following the prescription it has offered you."

Under the new prices, which went into effect this weekend, every household will have to pay 200,000 coupons per month for supplies of natural gas — 5.5 times more than at present.

Electricity supplies will go up 10.9 times to 60,000 coupons per kilowatt-hour. Bread, already rationed, will soar by an astronomical 2185 times to 200,000 coupons per kilogramme. A ride on the metro will cost 50,000 coupons as opposed to 1,000.

"We're shocked, I can't find the words to describe this," said 35-year-old Zaira Peradze, an engineer with three children. Her monthly salary of 300,000 coupons has not been paid for three months.

Inside a small shop, a 35-year-old manager, Dato Gabrichidze, said he first heard about the price rises on Georgian television late Friday.

"The day has been very difficult, people have been arguing and it takes so long to count all the notes," he said.

"It was impossible to avoid these measures — people must be stimulated to work," said Emir Djugeli, head of Georgia's privatisation programme.

Cretinism 'threatening' Indonesian economy

JAKARTA (R) — Cretinism and other debilitating ailments caused by a lack of iodine, especially in salt, loom large in Indonesia and experts say some economic goals could be hurt if action is not taken.

No accurate figures are available for mentally crippling cretinism in the world's fourth most populous nation, but foreign experts put the figure at up to 900,000 or 15 per cent of the world's total cases.

"If not solved, in addition to serious and widespread health problems, iodine deficiency disorders (IDD) will frustrate a government drive to achieve extended school education and will limit productivity," one foreign expert said at the weekend.

"In hard economic terms...it appears likely that eliminating...IDD will bring about overall productivity gains of at least 15 per cent that would contribute about \$100 to the overall gross national product per capita," the expert added.

Ways of fighting IDD in largely volcanic Indonesia, where lava washed down from mountains has no iodides, were discussed in Jakarta last week by ministers and Anna Semamba Makinda, board president of the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF).

"Very difficult consequences are happening or are going to happen in the absence of iodine," Ms. Makinda, Tanzania's community

development minister, told Reuters Friday.

Lack of iodine causes an inability to produce enough thyroid hormone and can lead to cretinism, or irreversible mental retardation, goitre, manifested by a grossly swollen neck, neuro-muscular defects and deaf mutism.

Sources close to last week's talks said the government aimed to iodise all salt by the end of 1995, up to 60 per cent is iodised now.

UNICEF is also discussing with the World Bank and international commodities group Cargill ways of working with the salt market in Indonesia.

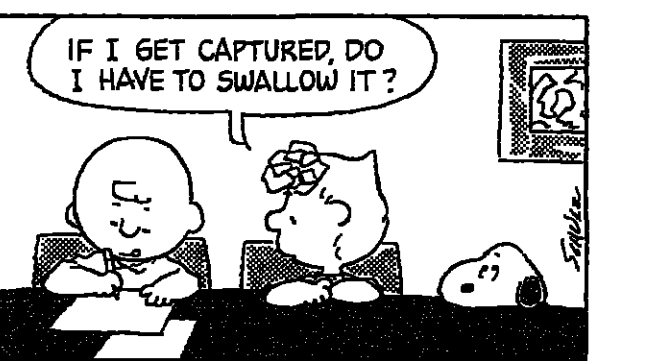
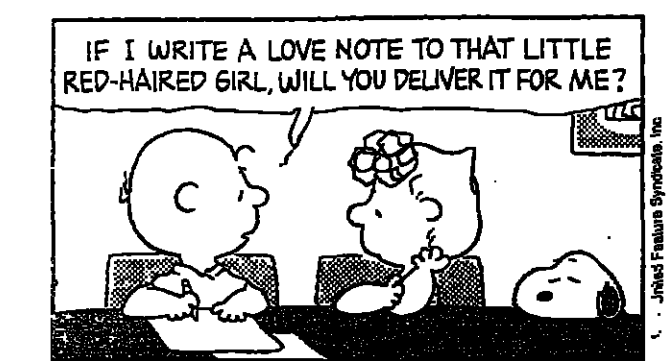
The basic cost of iodising one tonne of salt is \$1.25. This compares with \$20 million a year needed to supply iodised oil capsules only to high-risk areas in Indonesia.

But experts said there were problems with output control and the marketing of an estimated total of 10 million tonnes of salt produced each year from 216 factories.

They said Indonesia's 1979 salt iodisation policy had been frustrated by fraudulent claims of iodisation, producers resisting controls and preference for home-made salt.

If the iodine issue is not solved, experts said, a goal for children to have nine years of basic education instead of six would be jeopardised by the growing incidents of mentally retarded pupils.

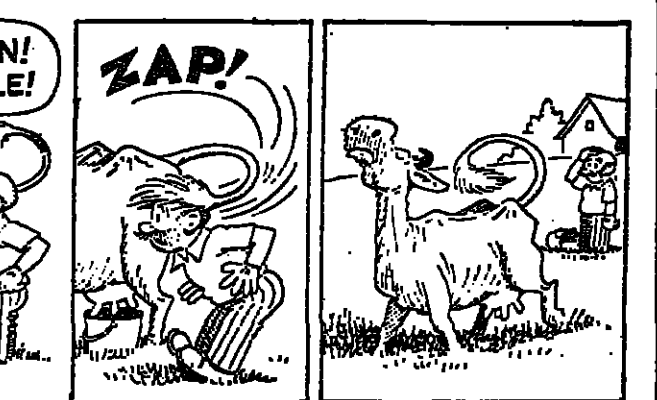
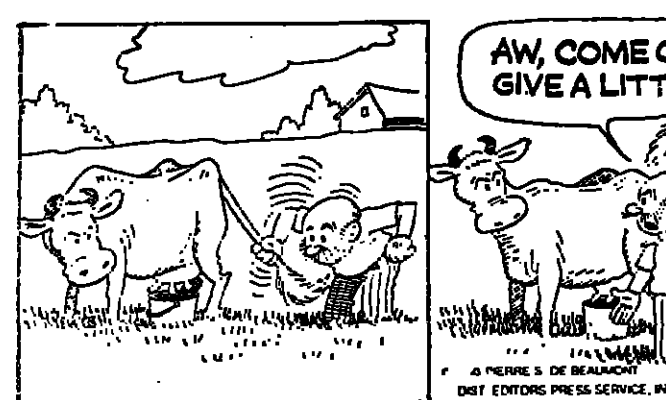
Peanuts



Andy Capp



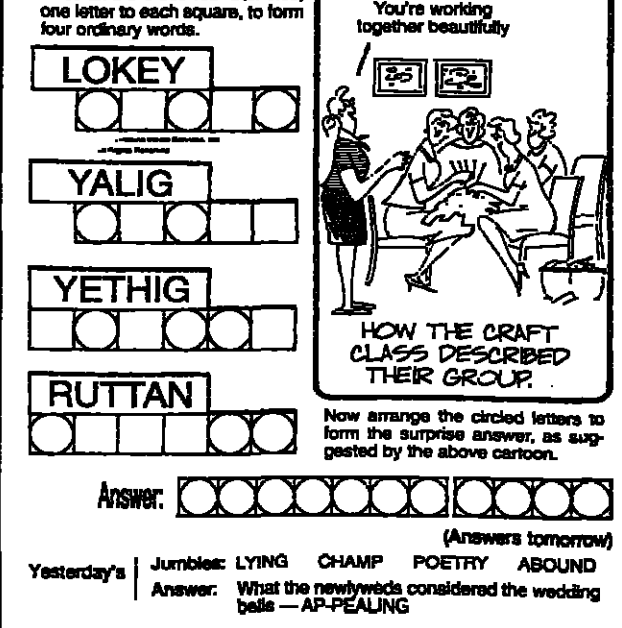
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FORECAST FOR MONDAY SEPTEMBER 19, 1994

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The Pisces Full Moon trines and squares the Sun, bringing a lot of energy and emotional force into play. There are opportunities for material enterprises and for home improvement. Keep on the alert.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Extra care must be exercised in communicating with others and in travel today and tonight. Make arrangements in the morning.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Come to a better understanding of a monetary matter. Later, make call and visits you have mind to make yourself very successful.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Don't lose your temper in the morning so you can handle business affairs well and become prosperous as a result.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Don't worry about something that cannot be helped and get busy improving your appearance. Entertain this evening with friends.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) One who likes to tease could make you angry, if you permit. Later, be with one you love for a romantic pleasant evening.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Don't take any chances with your reputation in the morning. Later, join a group affair which is your liking with good friends and associates.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Changing your perspective in the morning could be wise. Later, do nothing which can dampen you in the eyes of bigwigs.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Make sure you pay the annoying bill in the morning. Then you can get into whatever is constructive and profitable.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Steer clear of the annoying individual in the morning and then you can carry through with a wise plan which will make you successful.

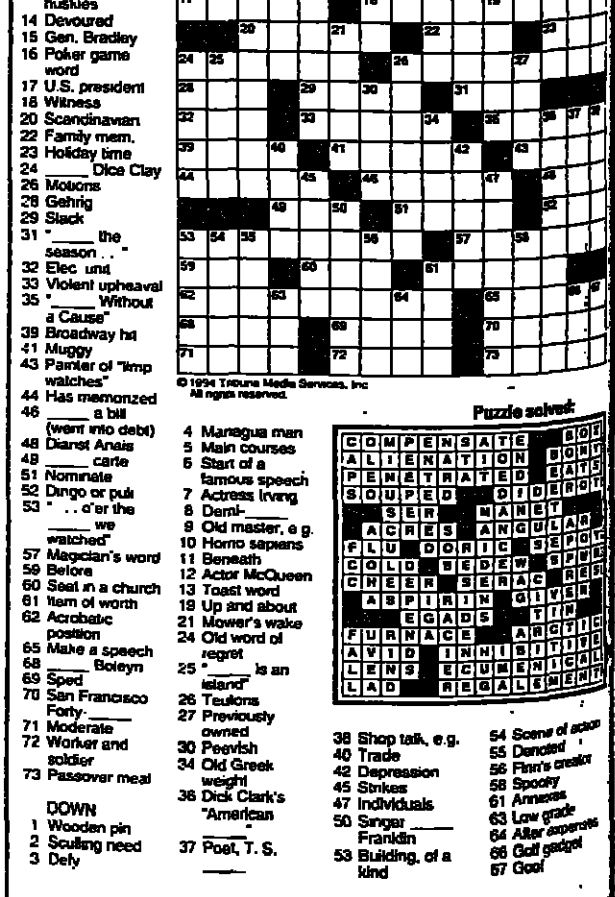
CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Work may seem tedious in the morning, but complete it and then you can get into more interesting activities which you enjoy.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Plan early for whatever pleasure you can easily afford. Then get right down to business and necessary tasks which must be completed.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Don't enter into any arguments with a loved one at home. Everything will work out well for you whether at work or play.

Birthstone of September: Sapphire — Lapis Lazuli

THE Daily Crossword by Norma Steinberg



Financial Markets
in co-operation with
Cairo Amman BankForeign Exchange Market Summary
September 12 - September 16, 1994

MAN — The dollar depreciated against the yen and sterling at end of last week; as it ended 0.23 per cent lower against the yen 1.71 per cent lower against sterling. The dollar, however, rose 1.46 per cent against the German currency.

The U.S. unit rose against the mark and yen Monday, while falling sharply against sterling. It rose ahead of the release of the consumer price index next day. Analysts expected the Fed to tighten monetary policy on its next scheduled Federal Open Market Committee meeting on Tuesday 27-9-1994, if prices at the consumer showed a big rise. On the other hand, sterling rose against the major currencies after the Bank of England increased its base rate by 0.50 per cent, to 5.75 per cent.

The dollar declined against the yen Tuesday, while appreciating against sterling and remaining unchanged against the mark. Reports stated that the U.S. unit rose against other major currencies after trading hours, after the release of the U.S. consumer price index showing a below expectations rise of 0.3 per cent at both the retail and core levels. However, the dollar declined later on over uncertainty in the U.S.-Japan trade talks. It also lost in view of concern over the release of the U.S. retail sales the Fed's Beige Book the following day.

The dollar depreciated slightly against European currencies Tuesday, while rising against the yen. It rose against the yen in view of continued market intervention by the Bank of Japan to stem the rise of its currency against the dollar, which happened during trading hours the previous day. The U.S. unit also gained against the yen in view of rumours that the Fed intervened in the market to support its currency against yen on behalf of the Bank of Japan. Rumours that some European banks bought dollars against the mark also lifted the U.S. unit against the mark during trading hours. However, a statement by the Bundesbank deputy president, in which he ruled out a new interest rate cuts in Germany, eased the dollar against the mark.

The U.S. unit rose against other major currencies Thursday. It rose against the yen after the U.S. commerce secretary said he is hopeful of an agreement in all areas of the U.S.-Japan talks before the end of this month. The dollar also rose against the mark in view of expectations of another Bundesbank monetary policy meeting after the German presidential elections in the middle of next month, which happened after the president of the Swiss National Bank stepped down from the German central bank.

The dollar retreated against other major currencies Friday, as it fell against sterling. It declined along with U.S. stock and prices after the release of the U.S. industrial production report showing a rise of 0.7 per cent in August.

The U.S. unit, thus ended the week at 1.5445 marks, 98.95 yen at \$1.5790 to the pound sterling.

New York Closing Rates for Major Currencies Against the U.S. Dollar

Currency	9/9/1994	10/9/1994	Percent Change
Sterling Pound	1.5525	1.5790	1.71%
Deutsche Mark	1.5374	1.5445	0.46%
Swiss Franc	1.2807	1.2820	0.10%
French Franc	5.2655	5.2810	0.29%
Japanese Yen	99.18	98.95	0.23%

Euro-Currency Interest Rates

Currency	9/9/1994	10/9/1994	1-Month (%)	3-Month (%)	6-Month (%)	1-Year (%)
U.S. Dollar	4.82	5.56	5.62	5.68		
Sterling Pound	4.87	6.37	5.25	6.87		
Deutsche Mark	4.75	5.25	4.75	5.31		
Swiss Franc	3.87	4.56	3.75	4.43		
French Franc	5.37	6.25	5.31	6.31		
Japanese Yen	2.31	2.50	2.37	2.56		

Interbank bid rates for overnight (overnight) 1% (U.S. Dollar) 1.00/100 or equivalent

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.636	0.638
Sterling Pound	1.0925	1.1047
Deutsche Mark	0.4499	0.4521
Swiss Franc	0.5424	0.5451
French Franc	0.1316	0.1323
Japanese Yen	0.7028	0.7063
Dutch Guilder	0.4019	0.4039
Swedish Krona	0.0445	0.0447
Italian Lira	0.0445	0.0447
Belgian Franc	0.0445	0.0447

Per 100

China targets \$10b chemical exports by 2000

BEIJING (AFP) — China plans to export \$10 billion worth of chemical products and to use \$10 billion in foreign investment in the sector by 2000, the China Daily has reported.

The newspaper quoted Chemical Industry Minister Gu Xianli as saying that a portion of the local market would be designated to foreign-funded enterprises in order to attract foreign investment, expected to total \$3.6 billion this year and 1995.

Between 1991 and 1993, foreign companies invested some \$4 billion in China's chemical industry.

"We shall further lift restrictions imposed on foreign-funded enterprises entering the Chinese market, especially for those high and new technology products," Ms. Gu said.

Ms. Gu was quoted by the official Xinhua news agency as saying that the ministry had signed all-round cooperation agreements with four foreign countries and 13 international chemical companies.

Among the chemical projects given priority by Beijing are pesticide projects, which focus on researching and developing new products, ethylene and aromatics plants in the petrochemical sector, in membrane caustic soda plants and radial tyre projects.

World Bank sees crisis in urban growth, decay

WASHINGTON (R) — With the number of people living in cities poised to match rural populations for the first time, the World Bank said Sunday nations must focus efforts on fighting urban pollution and poverty.

"We advocate a people-centred environmentalism, which must focus on cities, because that is where the majority of humanity is going to be living," World Bank President Lewis Preston said on the eve of a conference on the increasingly filthy air and water in the world's burgeoning cities.

"Protecting the rain forest and protecting biodiversity is important because it will preserve natural resources for the next generation, but cleaning up cities will help hundreds of millions of people right now," Mr. Preston said in a statement.

Michael Cohen, a bank senior adviser, in an interview said for years the environmental community has focused on "green issues" of natural resources and global climate change.

But he said it is increasingly clear that tackling green issues and ignoring urban degradation is not effective.

"There is an interdependency," Mr. Cohen said. "You save cities in part to save forests because if you aren't more energy-efficient, for example, people cut down

more trees."

The bank, which is sponsoring the conference here this week on sustainable urban development, said within 10 years half of the world's population will live in cities and towns for the first time in history.

The urban population in developing countries is growing at a 3.8 per cent annual rate and will increase from 1.4 billion people in 1990 to 3.6 billion in 2020.

Mr. Cohen compared that to the population of Goma, Zaire, which exploded with a million refugees and where thousands died from lack of clean water and sanitation.

"When you look at the pace of urban growth in developing countries, that population is increasing by at least a Goma a week," he said.

While the numbers are spread out around the developing world, Mr. Cohen said, "we think there is an invisible urban population and it coming at an incredible rate and the conditions are not that different from Goma."

The explosive urban growth, including "mega cities" of more than 10 million, has produced horrendous problems of pollution and poverty.

Twenty-five per cent of the world's urban population lives in absolute poverty and many millions more live in

substandard conditions, the bank said.

More than one billion city dwellers, or 65 per cent of the total urban population in developing countries, breathe unhealthy air. At least 170 million people in these areas lack a ready source of drinkable water and 350 million lack adequate sanitation, a major cause of sickness in many cities.

In developing countries, only 40 per cent of urban dwellers are hooked to sewers, and even where there are sewers, more than 90 per cent of the wastewater is discharged untreated into rivers, lakes and oceans.

The conference this week will bring together environmental and urban ministers, mayors and leaders of non-governmental organisations and businesses.

They will focus on pollution, inadequate housing and sanitation, the poor infrastructure and the desperate financial situations of many cities, and on social problems including crime and unemployment.

"The bank has been lending money for urban improvements since 1972 — for housing and infrastructure," Mr. Cohen said. "Now what we're saying is it isn't good enough to provide for infrastructure without paying attention to the environmental impacts."

G.M. unit in \$60m Saudi venture

DUBAI (R) — A General Motors (G.M.) unit has set up a \$60 million venture to make batteries in Saudi Arabia, offsetting defence sales to the kingdom, the company said.

"AC Delco Systems... has formed a joint venture with a group of Saudi industrialists and businessmen to build a battery manufacturing plant," said a statement by GM unit AC Delco, issued in

Riyadh and obtained by Reuters Sunday.

The joint venture plant, to be built at Dammam in eastern Saudi Arabia, is planned to start up in late 1996.

It will make batteries for automotive, commercial, marine and specialty markets in Arab Gulf states, with secondary markets in other Arab countries, the statement said.

General Motors will have a 49 per cent stake and the rest will be held by six Saudi companies, the statement said.

The statement did not say what the venture's capital would be but G.M. officials contacted by Reuters confirmed reports in Saudi newspapers that it would be around 225 million Saudi riyals (\$60 million).

Japan boosts investments in Arab Gulf states

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Japan, the Middle East's top commercial partner, has boosted its investment in the region by around \$709 million, mostly in Iran and other Gulf states, an official report said Sunday.

Direct Japanese investment stood at \$4.231 billion at the end of March 1993 compared with \$3.522 billion at the end of March 1992, said the report by the Japan External Trade Organisation (JETRO).

Iran was the biggest beneficiary receiving \$378 million to boost total Japanese investment there to \$1.385 billion.

The report, published in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) daily Al Khaleej, showed investment in Saudi Arabia jumped by 27 per cent to \$470 million and in Bahrain by 50 per cent to \$202 million.

Japan's investment in the UAE increased by 10 per cent to \$535 million and in other Gulf countries by 31 per cent to \$75 million.

More than one third of Japan's investments in the region are concentrated in the Neutral Zone, an oil-rich area shared by Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. Investments there stood at \$1.565 billion, an increase of 6.6 per cent.

A JETRO official in the UAE said the bulk of the Japanese assets in the Middle East were based in the energy sector, as Japan receives from the region around 60 per cent of its oil imports of more than four million barrels per day (b/d).

Such investments are concentrated in the Arabian-Japan Oil Company in the Neutral Zone and the Abu Dhabi-Japan Oil Company (ADOC), a joint venture with the UAE producing around 20,000 b/d.

Japan has sought to boost its share in the Gulf energy sector to ensure long-term crude supplies at reasonable prices.

But Gulf states except the UAE have been reluctant to readmit foreign partners after kicking them out more than two decades ago in a nationalisation drive in their energy industry.

Gulf officials, however, want Japan to increase investment in the industrial sector by setting up joint ventures to help the region obtain technology and lessen reliance on unstable oil earnings.

They say Japan's investments were not compatible with their strong political links and trade of nearly \$35 billion a year.

Japan's investments in the Gulf are also a fraction of its worldwide assets of \$386.5 billion.

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Everton look set for another survival battle

LONDON (R) — In the 1960s the brand of exciting, attacking soccer served up by Everton earned the club the nickname "the school of science."

But now, six games into the new season with the team without a win and bottom of the premier league a more apt name might be "the school of survival."

Just four months after saving themselves from relegation, Everton find themselves back among the nearly men and a long winter looks to be shaping for the ever-optimistic manager Mike Walker and new multi-millionaire owner Peter Johnson.

For the best part of the last two decades Everton were forced to live in the shadow of arch-rivals Liverpool as the red half of the city celebrated domestic and European successes.

But now Everton face the much more worrying prospect of living in the shadow of the other 21 teams in the premier league.

Saturday's 2-2 draw with Queens Park Rangers means Everton have taken just two points out of a possible 18 in their worst start to a season since 1958 when they lost their opening six games.

Then they recovered to avoid relegation, but this time the stakes are that much higher. Four teams will be relegated from the premier league at the end of this season as the elite division is reduced in size over the next two years.

Since the English league started 106 years ago, Everton have spent a record 102 years in the top division. They were last outside the top flight in 1954, but came perilously close to the drop in May.

And despite the upbeat mood of Walker, they could be set for another season of struggle.

On Saturday Walker watched in anguish as defensive blunders cost his side victory against QPR. It was his 24th match in charge since taking over from Howard Kendall in January. Of those matches, Everton have won just five.

"Perhaps it's a lack of confidence, but their second goal in particular was horrendous from a defensive point of view. It is all down to individual errors," Walker admitted.

But Everton have been making so many errors recently, both individually and collectively, that on the last day of last season they were just minutes away from relegation for the first time since footballers wore baggy shorts down to their knees and boots up to their ankles.

Trailing 0-2 at home to Wimbledon on May 7, they finally won 3-2 with nine minutes of the season remaining. It was one of the greatest houndi acts in modern soccer history.

In the close season Johnson took over and Walker moved into the transfer market to sign midfielder Vinny Samways from Tottenham for £2.2 million (\$3.44 million) and Nigerian world cup striker Daniel Amokachi from club Brugge for £3.0 million (\$4.70 million).

Everton also narrowly failed to secure the transfer of Brazilian striker Muller from Sao Paulo this week, so there is no doubting the club's ambition.

But the questions remain. Is Walker doing it right? Has he got time to succeed?

In an interview in Saturday's Daily Mail Walker said, "It is easy to criticise and say we haven't changed the team

yet. But we have changed a lot of things at the club."

"The thing had stagnated somewhere along the line, standards had dropped, expectations were going down and we had to change it, not just on the field. There is a great determination Everton won't lose their way again."

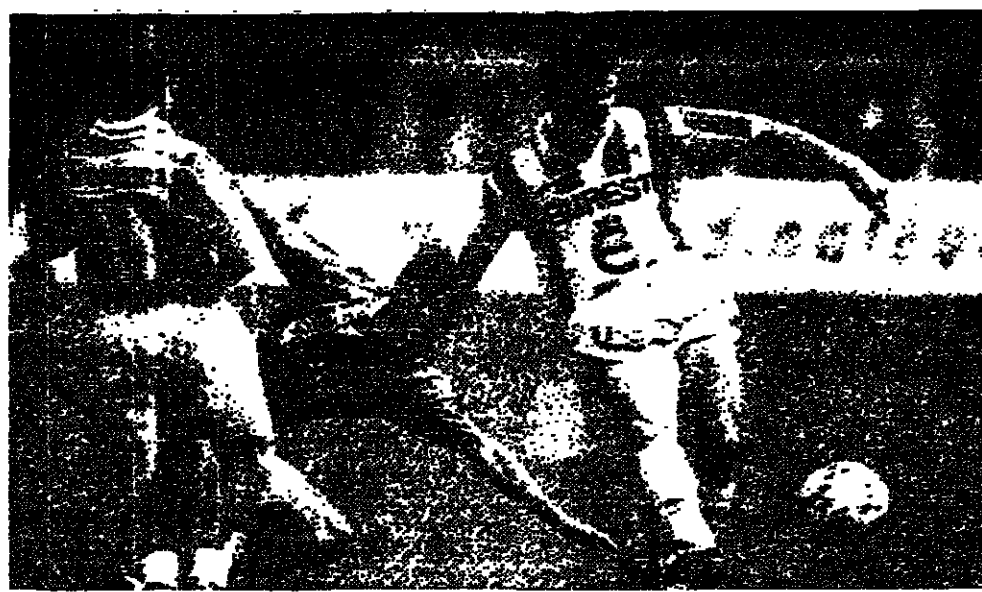
Everton have always tried to play open, attacking soccer and Goodison Park became known as "the school of science" under manager Harry Catterick who captured the league titles in 1963 and 1970 and the FA Cup in 1966.

Then for most of the 1970s and 80s Everton were overshadowed by Liverpool's successes until re-emerging under Kendall to win the championship again in 1985 and 1987. They also reached four FA Cup finals in the 1980s, winning the cup in 1984.

The school of science tag and Kendall's successes now seem a long time ago.

Success for Everton now would be a victory in a league match and three points on the board.

And the longer that takes in coming, the longer the odds on Everton turning survival back into science — and real success.



Espanol's Argentinian defender Pochettino (right) shoots past FC Barcelona's Beguiristain during their Spanish soccer league match Saturday night (AFP photo)

Barcelona struggle for point

BARCELONA, Spain (AFP) — Spanish champions Barcelona struggled to a goalless draw against league leaders Espanol here Saturday night in a tense, scrappy Catalan derby.

Barcelona were missing both their World Cup heroes up front — with Brazilian Romario picking up a thigh injury during the midweek European Champions League victory over Galatasaray, and volatile Bulgarian Hristo Stoichkov serving out the last game of a three-match ban.

Their spark was certainly missed on a gloomy night for Johan Cruyff's team.

Espanol had the ball in the back of the Barcelona net within 10 minutes of the start, Pacheta rising above a crowded goalmouth to head home Arteaga's free-kick from the left — only for the goal to be disallowed for shoving.

Romanian Florin Radu-

cioiu had a clear opportunity for Espanol just minutes later as he bore down on Barcelona goalkeeper Carlos Busquets, only to send a searing drive just inches over the bar.

Nothing was going right for Barcelona in the hostile Sarria stadium.

Their defence was in ruinous shape — a catalogue of bungled clearances and fumbled back-passes went mercifully unpunished — and it took their midfield a full 20 minutes to even string a few meaningful passes together.

Just as Raducioiu was the chief architect of the Espanol attack, so his World Cup teammate Gheorghe Hagi fulfilled the same role for the Spanish champions. The Romanian forced a fine save from Toni with a free kick just outside the box after half an hour, and seconds later set up a move with a deft flick which saw Iglesias Ivan blaze narrowly wide.

However, the home side

continued to press forward and eight minutes from half-time the Espanol crowd were on their feet again when striker Jordi Lardin was floored by Barcelona defender Alberto Ferrer as he tried to surge through a packed defence. But the referee would have none of their penalty appeals.

Things improved for Barcelona in the second-half, partly because Cruyff brought on his son Jordi for Beguiristain after 15 minutes.

But Espanol had the ball in the back of Barca's net again within 10 minutes of the substitution. Again it was disallowed.

Dutch defender Ronald Koeman, who had offset an error-strewn performance with two crucial interceptions, made a poor pass to Ferrer which was quickly intercepted by Raducioiu.

Aside from a fine 20-yard shot from Hagi, which Toni had to push over five minutes from the whistle, Barcelona never really looked like snatching a winner. And on Saturday night's form, they look to stand little chance of retaining their league title.

ITF changes tennis rules to curb big servers

HONG KONG (AFP) — Revolutionary changes announced here by the International Tennis Federation (ITF) will apply the brakes to the power game which has been turning fans off.

With spectators deserting the game in droves, the ITF has decided the best solution is to alter the specification of the balls.

At their annual general meeting here Saturday, the federation ruled that tournaments played on fast surfaces, such as grass at Wimbledon, will now use softer and therefore slower balls which would extend rallies.

Conversely, tournaments held on slower surfaces, such as the clay at the French Open, will use harder, faster balls to add variety to the game.

Another significant development is the ITF's reduction of the time between changeovers at the end of games from 25 to 20 seconds.

This move could, however, bring the ITF into conflict with the men's Association of Tennis Professionals. The ATP has experimented with 20-second breaks, but last week announced that it wants to return to 25 seconds.

ITF President Brian Tobin said Saturday's innovations were essential to boost tennis' appeal and halt growing dissatisfaction among fans and television broadcasters.

The changes would apply to all men's, women's and junior events, as well as the ITF's four Grand Slam tournaments and international team competitions such as the Davis Cup and the Federation Cup for women.

"We spent a lot of time discussing ways to make tennis as exciting a spectacle as possible," Tobin said.

"One of the big complaints we've also had from spectators and television is that there is too much time between points and not enough tennis."

"Changing from 25 seconds to 20 seconds means there will be more tennis and less passive waiting time."

Tobin said he didn't expect any major objections to the new rules from the men's ATP Tour or the Women's Tennis Association.



Pete Sampras

The ball changes were seen as the only legitimate way to slow the game down, although the meeting did consider altering the dimensions of the tennis court and the height of the net.

"We discussed all the possibilities but there was a strong feeling we shouldn't tamper with the basics of the game," Tobin said.

The ITF also plans to take a closer look at racket technology to ensure power servers, such as world number one Pete Sampras and Croatia's Goran Ivanisevic, cannot dominate the game by bludgeoning opponents as they have done in recent years.

"We want to be able to govern future developments in racket technology a little more than we have been able to in the past," Tobin said.

The ITF also announced it would plough one million U.S. dollars back into the game through its 191 national members.

The Federation has given out \$2.5 million in development grants over the past three years.

ITF sponsorship is now fully booked through to 1998, with television contracts for the Davis Cup also filled until 1999.

Prize money for the Davis Cup will be increased by some six per cent next year to more than seven million dollars while prize money for the Federation Cup rise to two million dollars.

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